

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Millions across France strike for social wage

BY NAT LONDON  
AND RAFIK ZAÏGOUCHE

PARIS — Nearly two million public workers struck and some 200,000 demonstrated throughout France against government austerity measures on October 17. Some 35 percent of the nearly 5.5 million civil servants and public service workers struck that day, according to government figures.

Thousands of schools were closed across the country as 45 percent of workers in the national education system walked out.

Between 40 and 45 percent of rail workers were on strike and only one third of the trains functioned that day. Many workers at Air France and Air France Europe (formerly Air Inter) struck, as did the air traffic controllers, canceling 85 percent of domestic flights. The day before the action, newspapers did not appear as journalists struck against a government tax reform measure aimed at them.

Demonstrations were held in cities throughout France and drew large contingents. **Continued on Page 3**



Thousands of striking teachers in France march in Paris September 30. The demonstration was one of many that led up to October 17 protest strike of 2 million.

## Socialist: 'reject CIA conspiracy theory'

BY GALE SHANGOLD

LOS ANGELES — "Working people should totally reject the barrage of conspiracy theories that are running rampant now," said Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 35th Congressional District. In a recent interview, Ntweng responded to the articles in the *San Jose Mercury News* alleging that a Nicaraguan drug network with ties to the CIA opened the first crack cocaine pipeline to the Los Angeles Black community.

The newspaper articles by staff writer Gary Webb rehash news about Nicaraguan "contra" operations to profit from the selling of drugs after the U.S. government had officially cut off aid to these counterrevolutionary forces in the 1980s.

"My campaign," said Ntweng, "was for a period of time dead wrong on this issue. Our initial campaign statement said, 'Visible united action is key to expose who okayed the racist decision to 'target' South

Central for cocaine sales to fund the U.S. dirty war against the Nicaraguan people and their government.' We also said the CIA-contra operation 'opened the floodgates to crack addiction, ruining lives of tens of thousands of Blacks, many of them young.'

"Rather than a conspiracy or a racist plot," explained Ntweng, "drugs were sold where money could be made quickly, easily, profitably — where there were already middle-

men, a distribution network, and a market."

The U.S. government also organized funding for the contras from contributions from wealthy U.S. capitalists, from the royal family in Saudi Arabia, and from arm sales to Iran, later known as "Contragate."

"My campaign attended two public meetings called after the *San Jose Mercury News* articles appeared, each of which attracted

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## Venezuela cops incinerate inmates

BY MEGAN ARNEY

A fire killed 25 inmates after prison guards launched incendiary devices into a crowded jail cell in Caracas, Venezuela, October 22. Venezuela's national prisons director, Antonio Marval, admitted October 23 that three guards were responsible for the deaths of the prisoners. He said three guards at La Planta

jail, including Capt. Osmen Martínez, the detachment's leader, fired the devices into two cells.

According to the Associated Press, Marval said the fire began after a riot by prisoners. But José Alberto Mejías, one of five inmates who managed to flee, said the guards locked them in the cell after the 6:00 a.m. roll call and fired tear gas canisters at them. Mejías explained how sparks from the canisters started the blaze and "everything caught on fire."

He denied initial reports from prison officials that inmates had rioted and guards fired tear gas to restore order. "Everybody was calm. Nobody had done anything wrong," Mejías said. Later, Marval said the guards apparently acted out of "wickedness" and "repression."

Like most prisons, Venezuela jails are severely overcrowded — some 1,700 people are housed in a facility made for 1,000 — and living conditions for inmates are horrendous, many do not even have beds.

After the fire, the 12-foot-by-12-foot concrete jail cell was as black as a coal mine. Several hundred inmates demonstrated at the jail entrance for several hours to prevent authorities from entering to transport the bodies. The inmates demanded that reporters and lawyers from the attorney general's office enter the burned cell block ahead of the National Guard so they could give their side of the story.

This is the worst incident in a Venezuelan penitentiary since 1994, when a blaze at Sabaneta Prison in Maracaibo killed 108 inmates.

## Yeltsin ousts Lebed as tension grows in Moscow

MAURICE WILLIAMS

A fight for political supremacy in Moscow's ruling caste deepened as ailing Russian president Boris Yeltsin dismissed national security adviser Alexander Lebed on October 17, following accusations that Lebed was plotting a coup. Appearing weak and ill a month before scheduled heart bypass surgery, Yeltsin said on national television that he "could not tolerate" Lebed, who "is splitting the team apart."

Yeltsin also fired the deputy commander of airborne forces on October 17 and dismissed Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov, the armed forces chief of staff, the next day. The moves were widely viewed as "an attempt to purge the Defense Ministry of any senior personnel loyal to Mr. Lebed," according to the *New York Times*. Seeking to forestall a possible armed mutiny, Russian troops were put on alert in Moscow and other major cities.

Three hours after being forced out of the Kremlin, Lebed told a news conference, "I'm going to set up a political structure to prepare for the coming elections." He called on "comrades in arms, my allies and people I probably do not know — do not do anything abrupt." Lebed was appointed national security adviser after he placed a strong third in the first round of the presidential elections.

That same day, Lebed's bodyguards clashed openly with armed plainclothes interior ministry agents who were carrying surveillance equipment. The agents were detained, disarmed, and released after Lebed gave them a lecture.

Lebed bumped heads frequently with

**Continued on Page 3**

## GM workers end strike in Canada

BY JOANNE WALLADOR

STE-THÉRESE, Quebec—Members of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) approved a contract with General Motors October 23, ending a 20-day strike by 26,000 workers.

The agreement, which had already been approved by the CAW Bargaining Committee, gives GM the go-ahead to sell two parts plants in Windsor and Oshawa, Ontario. As part of the agreement, workers who go with the new owner will receive their current wages for the next three years, and current pensions and benefits for the next nine years.

According to the contract, GM is not supposed to outsource to contractors hundreds of jobs as they had planned. But GM officials said the agreement allows the automaker to reduce the number of workers it employs because of changes in technology, productivity gains, a market share decline, or if a certain product line is discontinued.

Under the agreement, workers will get an annual wage increase of 2 percent in addition to regular cost-of-living increases. They will also receive a \$350 signing bonus. Same-sex partners of CAW members will be eligible to receive health and other non-pension benefits. Mandatory overtime at the remaining Oshawa facilities will be eliminated, although the company retains the right

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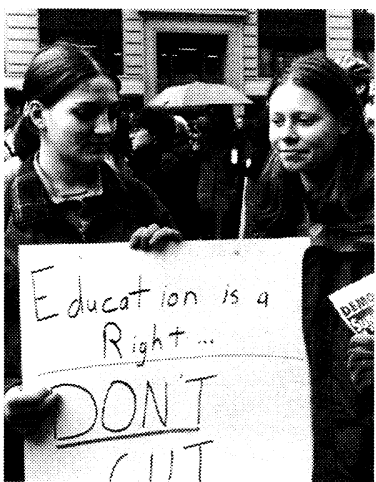
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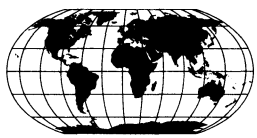
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### Turkish forces kill Greek Cypriot

Turkish military forces occupying the northern third of the island of Cyprus shot and killed a Greek Cypriot October 13. The man was shot dead in a buffer zone occupied by United Kingdom military bases that divides the island. Four people have been killed in the buffer area since tensions began to mount in August.

The Athens-backed Cypriot government called the killing "blatant cold-blooded murder." Costas Simitis, Greece's prime minister, has pledged military support for the regime in Cyprus, using the tensions between Athens and Ankara to advance a massive militarization program to the tune of \$12 billion in arms spending.

### Kurdish factions battle in Iraq

The Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), backed by Iraqi government, recaptured the town of Koi Sanjaq from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) on October 18. The fighting halted a recent offensive by the PUK to retake northern territory in Iraq, lost in August and September to the KDP. The PUK had launched a counteroffensive October 13 seizing Sulaymaniyah and Koi Sanjaq, the second largest city in the region.

U.S. state department spokesman Nicholas Burns warned the Iraqi regime did not have any "kind of role to play militarily in the northern part of Iraq." Under the pretext of protecting the Kurdish population in northern Iraq, U.S. president William Clinton ordered two rounds of cruise missile strikes in southern Iraq in September.

### Mexican peso hits 1996 low

The Mexican peso dropped in value to 12.7 U.S. cents on October 16 — its lowest level this year. The country's central bank has sought to shore up the currency throughout the year by buying up pesos to keep the peso valued at 13.3 U.S. cents. Banco de Mexico sopped up some 40 million pesos out of circulation October 14-15 buying pesos and raising liquidity of the bank.

According to the *New York Times*, the peso slide was buttressed by investors' "anxiety" when Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo canceled the sale of 61 petrochemi-



**More than 25,000 students marched in Mexico City, in remembrance of the Tlatelolco massacre 28 years ago. On October 2, 1968, students, workers and peasants poured into the streets demanding price decreases, an end to persecution by the Mexican military, and other measures. The Mexican army was sent in, slaughtering over 300 civilian protesters.**

cal plants on October 13.

### Rightist wins Nicaragua election

Initial results of the October 20 presidential elections in Nicaragua indicated Liberal Alliance candidate Arnoldo Alemán won by a nearly 10 percent margin over Daniel Ortega, candidate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Ortega was president of the Sandinista-led workers and farmers government that came to power in the 1979 revolution. Following the FSLN's retreat from leading the revolution forward in the late 1980s, capitalist politician Violeta Chamorro won the presidency in 1990.

Alemán, the former mayor of the capital Managua, ran on a platform of bringing in more foreign investment and establishing closer relations with Washington. Ortega called for a recount, alleging "serious irregularities" in the balloting.

### War continues in Afghanistan

Gen. Rashid Dostum and Ahmed Shah Massoud, former rivals in Afghanistan, formed an alliance to oppose of the reactionary Taliban regime that assumed power September 27 after 4 years of power struggles resulting from the defeat of the Moscow-backed regime in 1992.

Dostum, who had previously abstained from sending troops to fight, sent tanks and troops to the front lines. Dostum has called for a cease-fire and negotiations that would set up a broad based government that included Taliban representation. Abdullah, a spokesman for Massoud said, "we will have a joint strategy against Taliban, whether in talks or in fighting."

### Ruling party gains in Japan

Japanese prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Liberal Party gained in parliamentary elections October 20, going from 211 seats to 239 in the 500-member lower house of parliament. Hashimoto immediately turned to forming a new coalition government. The Social Democrats, part of the previous governing coalition, lost half of their seats, going from 30 to 15.

The Liberal Democrats were Japan's ruling party from 1955 through most of the postwar era. Following a series of political scandals, the LDP tumbled after a no-confidence vote in July of 1993.

### EU demands Poland 'reform'

European Union (EU) officials told the Polish government that it would have to step up capitalist economic reforms to be considered for membership in the 15-nation formation. EU foreign affairs commissioner Hans van den Broek said "major adjust-

ments" would be needed to put Poland in EU trim.

"This requires nothing less than a transformation of the economic and administrative landscape of the country — from the acceleration of privatization to the reform of public administration," van den Broek explained.

### Israeli settlers grab Arab land

Israeli soldiers restrained angry Palestinians October 17 as they watched Zionist settlers unwrap and place barbed wire around a stretch of land they claimed Palestinians were illegally using. The Palestinian owner of the plot, Salem Jaber, together with 30 of his relatives, furiously watched the fence go up. "This land is ours," he said.

Zvi Katzover, mayor of Kiryat Arba, claimed the Palestinians were illegally living on the plot, but Jaber said he had the deeds to prove ownership of the land. "There won't be peace between us. There will be butchery. It is us or them," concluded Jaber in frustration.

### Zaire gov't to expel refugees

Zairian prime minister Leon Kengo wa Dondo announced October 16 plans to close all refugee camps in eastern Zaire — where more than a million Rwandans have taken refuge. Dondo accused the regime in Rwanda of "unacceptable behavior."

Rwandan and Zaire troops governments have exchanged heavy weapon and mortar fire twice in September, with the Rwandan foreign ministry charging the Zaire government with using the refugee camps as de facto bases for Hutu attacks on Rwanda.

### Social Security shorts thousands

The Social Security Administration claimed that a computer blunder had cheated 700,000 people of \$850 million worth of social security benefits. In 1994, the first chunk of mistakes were uncovered with some 400,000 recipients getting shorted by \$10 - \$20 a week for over a decade. While these people were compensated, a further investigation unearthed 300,000 more that were not given the money due.

Nearly 60,000 have died who never received the money they were owed.

### Dow inflates to 6000 mark

The Dow Jones industrial stock average hit a record 6020 October 16, prompting optimism among market speculators. "The fact that we closed above the 6000 level is kind of psychologically important for this market...and could give us a base for another upward move," Bob Basel, of listed Smith Barney, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

The big business financial daily said that bond investors, nervous about the inflated bubble, had to be reassured by a 0.3 percent rise in the consumer price index. The Dow Jones dropped nearly 200 points between July 4 and July 12, sending Wall Street into a frenzy.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

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# Strikes protest austerity drive in France

Continued from front page

gents of teachers, hospital workers and smaller numbers of rail, gas and electric and postal workers.

In the days preceding the national day of action, tens of thousands of defense plant workers, journalists, doctors and ambulance drivers and others engaged in similar actions.

The *International Herald Tribune*, an English-language daily published in Paris but jointly owned by the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, warned U.S. investors to steer clear of France. "U.S. investors are keen on almost all of Europe" ran their front page headline. However, France, they warned, was the "one country in the European Union" where "there are so many vested interests that resist the kind of restructuring which is taking place in other parts of Europe." The French rulers are under pressure to push through austerity mea-

sures in order to enter the European Monetary Union on par with their German rivals.

France is in the midst of a worsening economic crisis. Economic activity has declined in three of the last five quarters and dropped 0.4 percent in the second quarter of this year. Official unemployment is 12.5 percent and still rising. Unions have pointed out that if those on temporary government training programs, early retirement programs to avoid layoffs, and other such schemes are added to the 3.3 million officially unemployed, the figure would be 5.7 million or around 20 percent of the workforce.

The press is filled with comparisons between the October 17 action and a National Day of Action held on October 10 last year. While this year's demonstrations were somewhat larger than in 1995, the strikes were somewhat smaller.

In the days leading up to last year's ac-

tion the government of Prime Minister Alain Juppé announced a wage freeze for all public workers and an attack on their retirement age. Instead of intimidating workers this gave the action momentum. It became the largest one day action in recent memory and kicked off an explosive movement of strikes in November and December.

This year the government announced an end to the wage freeze and the opening of wage negotiations just before the strike day. Following the strike, government representatives and some newspapers announced triumphantly that the strike wave was declining since participation in this year's strike was less than last year's 57 percent. It was, nevertheless, one of the largest such actions in France in the last 15 years.

The government has also announced a reduction in the number of teaching jobs.

Many teachers with annual contracts

found themselves without jobs as the new school year started. This means a work overload for the remaining teachers. "Create 45,000 teaching jobs — it's better than 800,000 hours of overtime", read the banner of one of the demonstrating teachers unions.

Three unions called for a strike by the 120,000 doctors who are general practitioners with private practices to protest Juppé's proposed reforms of the Social Security system. A fourth union called for applying a part of the Juppé plan, but also took part in the day's action.

Medical workers made up large contingents in the demonstrations. "There's too much work in the hospital — there's too much unemployment outside — hire, hire the unemployed," shouted the demonstrating hospital workers over a loud bullhorn, while postal workers chanted, "no, no layoffs, one more postal worker equals one less unemployed."

The demonstration in Paris was joined by 50 Air France workers who work at Narita Airport in Japan. "Liberty and Human Rights for the Japanese personnel of Air France" read their banner in French. They held up colorful banners written in Japanese. Koki Umeki, a leader of the Association of Japanese Workers at Air France Against all Discrimination, said they had come to protest union busting activity by Air France management at Narita Airport in Japan.

They were welcomed by a CGT contingent of Air France workers from Charles De Gaulle Airport and demonstrated together.

One of the contingents which received the most applause from the sidelines was made up of several hundred undocumented workers and their supporters. They have been struggling since March demanding regular residency papers.

Derek Jeffers contributed to this article.

## Power fight heats up in Russia

Continued from front page

other government officials, including Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and presidential chief of staff Anatoly Chubais. At an October 16 news conference, interior minister Anatoly Kulikov accused Lebed of organizing a 50,000-strong "Russian Legion" to launch a coup. Kulikov said Lebed planned for the new legion to crush internal conflicts in the country, including assassinations of leaders of political parties, independence movements, and others viewed as threats.

"Lebed has decided to move ahead using force instead of waiting for the next presidential poll," said Kulikov, who heads a large force of police and paramilitary units.

Lebed denied the coup allegation, but acknowledged he sent documents to the interior and defense ministries proposing special brigades of 3,000 soldiers in each region, purportedly to form a national guard. Lebed said he was told it could be done by the end of 1999.

Shortly before his dismissal, Lebed had urged Yeltsin to resign. "There is a president and at the same time there is no president," he said September 28. "I would prefer to deal with someone who is temporary yet in charge." Yeltsin had been admitted to the Central Clinical Hospital, where he began undergoing tests September 13. The Russian president has not fully functioned in office since his reelection in July.

Lebed, a former general who oversaw the violent repression of popular uprisings in Georgia and Moldova, warned of a "hot autumn" of growing restlessness from an underpaid and demoralized army. The October 18 *Wall Street Journal* reported that "a group of officers published a letter in a Russian daily newspaper yesterday saying they were prepared to take radical steps if back wages aren't paid by October 25."

Minister of Defense Gen. Igor Rodionov said hundreds of thousands of soldiers and their families live below the poverty line and more than 110,000 officers do not have housing. "If things go on like this the situation will become intolerable," he asserted.

Demands for payment of back wages are mounting throughout Russia. "Led by militant coal miners, most of the city of Vorkuta went on strike [October 1] to protest at a

five-month delay in wages," London's *Financial Times* reported. Enterprises throughout the country owe some \$6.8 billion to workers, and the debt is growing by \$500 million every month, according to government figures.

"We had enough for food, we had enough for clothes," Valeri and Galina Novikov told the *Christian Science Monitor*. "Now we are down to just food." Both workers are owed months in back wages from the Ivanovo Blended Yarn Mill, Ltd.

Meanwhile, as political instability continues to stalk the Kremlin, leaders in Chechnya expressed fears that the ouster of Lebed could signal a new Russian offensive. Lebed negotiated a halt to Yeltsin's bloody war to crush the Chechen independence struggle, which cost some 30,000

lives — mostly civilians. "Everyone is watching the events in Moscow with great alarm," a Chechen fighter remarked. Chechen leaders announced October 19 plans to hold elections on January 27, advancing preparations to form a government.

Speaking of the recent events, U.S. ambassador Thomas Pickering said, "President Yeltsin once again made it clear that, when it comes to the crunch, he will act."

Yeltsin "remains in control even from his sick bed," added a news article in the *Wall Street Journal*.

A more realistic assessment of the crisis facing the regime was expressed by the *Financial Times*, which asserted that "today's struggles could prove to be just the dress rehearsal for a far more wrenching showdown."

## Tribute to life of Black rights fighter

We are reprinting below a tribute sent by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes to the Robert Williams Tribute Committee, which is organizing a meeting to celebrate the life of civil rights activist Robert F. Williams. The meeting, which will take place November 1 in Detroit, was originally planned to honor Williams while he was still alive. Williams died on October 15; the letter below was written prior to his death.

Williams was born in Monroe, North Carolina, in 1925. After working various factory jobs in the north and spending time in the military during the Korean War, Williams returned to Monroe where he led a fight by Blacks in the late 1950s and early 1960s to defend themselves, including with guns when necessary, from violent attacks by the Ku Klux Klan. He was framed-up and forced into exile in 1961 for his civil rights activity and defense of the Cuban revolution. After living in Cuba and China, he returned to the United States in 1969.

Dear Friends,

The Socialist Workers Party welcomes this opportunity to greet and pay tribute to

Robert F. Williams. His integrity and courage as a leader of the struggle against racism, exploitation, and oppression set an important example for a generation becoming active in politics in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The struggles he helped initiate and lead to desegregate public facilities in the Jim Crow South, and to organize self-defense of the Black community against Ku Klux Klan nightriders, made Monroe, North Carolina, in those years an emblem of resistance to bigotry and social injustice, not just in the United States but around the world.

In 1958-59 Robert F. Williams came to the defense of two Monroe schoolboys — one seven years old, the other nine, both of them Black — who were arrested and railroaded to jail on charges of "assaulting and molesting a white female." Their "crime?" That one of the boys had been kissed by a seven-year-old white girl in the presence of the other boy (the latter was convicted as an "accomplice"). Williams and other fighters in Monroe launched the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, in which members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance participated alongside many others across the country. Many of its supporters later formed the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants in 1961, when Williams himself was framed up on kidnapping charges and forced into exile for eight years.

I personally met Robert Williams in early 1961, when members of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and civil rights supporters at Minnesota's Carleton College organized a meeting at which he was a featured speaker. Along with Ed Shaw, a Midwest leader of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee who was also a leader of the Detroit branch of the SWP at that time, Williams was on a nationwide speaking tour in defense of the Cuban revolution and in support of the rising struggle for Black rights. The meeting had an enormous political impact on all of



Robert F. Williams

us. I recall being struck during the discussion period by how comfortable each of the speakers was in fielding questions about both the socialist revolution unfolding in Cuba and the battles for Black rights under way in this country.

Working people and youth today need to learn and relearn this history, so we can emulate these examples. Doing so will better prepare all of us to resist probes against our democratic rights, as the bipartisan rulers press to take back social gains won by labor and civil rights struggles earlier in this century. In the course of such battles, as Malcolm X said, young fighters will recognize and assert their self-worth and transform themselves as they work to transform society. These militants are and will be the best tribute to those like Robert F. Williams in whose footsteps they tread.

Once again, on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party I send greetings to Robert Williams, Mabel Williams, and other participants in the Detroit meeting your committee is organizing.

In solidarity and in fond salute,

s/Jack Barnes  
National Secretary,  
Socialist Workers Party

### A Tribute to Robert F. Williams

Friday, November 1, 1996

4 p.m.-9p.m.

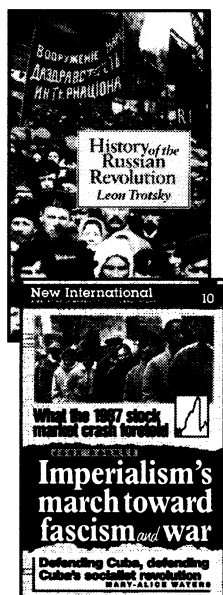
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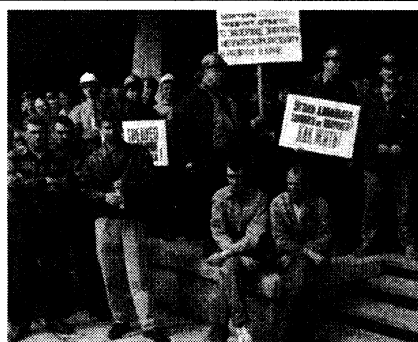


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Unpaid miners hold demonstration in Vladivostok in June 1996

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# 'I urge you to struggle'

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON  
AND TOM ALTER

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — "I'm not really interested in your vote," Socialist Workers' presidential candidate James Harris told students at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, October 21. "I'm here to urge you to become part of the struggle to change the world."

Later, at Macalester University in St. Paul, Harris asked a group of students, some of whom had traveled to Washington the week before to demonstrate for immigrant rights, "Why do you think the October 12 demonstration was so important? Do you think it is because it was right — that no human being should be considered illegal?"

"Yes," Harris answered. "But also because of what it says about workers today. Workers are not supposed to see themselves as equals, as united in opposition to those who exploit them. Inside that demonstration were the seeds of a movement for real social change."

The meetings attracted more than 40 students, including some from high schools and other colleges in the Twin Cities. Students crowded round to talk with Harris and members of the Young Socialists long after the meetings ended.

Several bought copies of the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*, and three bought subscriptions. One youth bought a copy of the Marxist magazine, *New International*, another picked up *Teamster Rebellion*. Two copies of the Young Socialist organizational pamphlet went rapidly. One student asked to join the Young Socialists. A dozen stu-

dents signed up for more information about campaign activities. Campaign supporters also handed out a local Socialist Workers campaign brochure. The four-page brochure highlights the national and local candidates, an interview with Tom Fiske, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, explaining that his Democratic opponent, Paul Wellstone, is a liberal advocate of imperialism. It also includes information on becoming involved in the SWP campaign and participating in the upcoming Regional Socialist Educational Conferences November 29 - December 1.

The campus meetings followed a gathering of 45 people the night before at the Pathfinder bookstore in St. Paul.

BY RAY PARSONS

CHICAGO — "We choose representatives in the elections but they don't end up representing us. Why?"

"Why are socialists always pointing to fighters, and referring to themselves as fighters?"

"Who is a worker? Isn't the owner of a factory a worker too?"

"Capitalists will try to subvert even a socialist leader that rises to power. How do we prevent this corruption?"

"What is the socialist stand on gun control?"

These were just some of the questions raised in a spirited and open discussion after Kristin Meriam, the Socialist Workers candidate for the 4th Congressional district of Illinois, spoke before the October 1 meet-



Tom Fiske (left), Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, campaigning together with Young Socialist Jack Willey (right) at Mankato State University.

ing of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Division 682 in Hammond, Indiana.

The local organizes engineers at the Indiana Harbor Belt, a small railroad that serves the steel mills and connects various rail yards around Chicago. Meriam, 28, is a conductor at Norfolk Southern Railroad.

She was invited to speak before the union by Don Byrom, the local's legislative representative. Byrom had met the Socialist Workers Campaign during the protests around the Democratic National Convention in August. Several workers stayed after the union meeting to continue talking. One bought the Marxist magazine *New In-*

*ternational* no. 10, with the article "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War," as well as two Pathfinder titles, *Eugene Debs Speaks* and *American Labor Struggles: 1877-1934*, by Samuel Yellen.

I interviewed Byrom later as he waited for his train at the Burlington Northern yard where other campaign supporters work. "I'm glad you came, and that I had the opportunity to put together such a lively discussion," he said.

Ray Parsons is a switchman at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe yard in Cicero, Illinois.

## Fund supporters organize to meet goal in 3 weeks

BY CHRIS REMPLE

With only three weeks left to complete the 1996 International Pathfinder Fund, supporters around the world will need to accelerate their work in collecting pledges to go from the \$45,638 collected to date to the \$125,000 goal. Over the past week, over \$7,700 was sent in from around the world and a new country has been added to the chart. Pathfinder supporters in France have taken a goal of collecting \$750 by the November 12 deadline. The fund is making it possible for Pathfinder to reprint books without delay as they go out of stock.

Drive ends November 12

Careful organization by supporters is needed to complete contacting all the people they think may want to contribute, as well as reminding every person who has made a pledge that the end of the fund drive is only a few weeks away. With this approach it will be possible to complete the drive in full and on time. All contributions must be in the Pathfinder office in New York by noon Tuesday, November 12.

Supporters in Detroit sponsored a fund-raising event that brought in over \$600, including \$100 in new pledges and contributions. Ma'mud Shirvani spoke on "Capitalism's growing world disorder." Shirvani is coauthor of the introduction for *To See the Dawn*, the record of the Congress of the People's of the East held in

Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1920 under the leadership of the Bolsheviks in the Soviet Union.

In Birmingham, Alabama, supporters are holding a raffle to raise money for Pathfinder. The idea is to sell tickets for the raffle to co-workers and others interested in supporting Pathfinder. The prizes include a gift certificate to the local Pathfinder bookstore and one donated by a local restaurant. They are also sponsoring an event at which the door prize will be an item donated by a local art gallery.

With greater efforts by Pathfinder supporters to get these books into the hands of fighters around the world, sales have gone up this year and a rate at which Pathfinder books have to be reprinted has also increased. A large number of Pathfinder books and pamphlets are in the reprint pipeline.

Volunteers set more readable type

Among the titles being reprinted with newly designed text and, in some cases, a new cover, are three of four volumes of the Teamster series written by Farrell Dobbs: *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics*, and *Teamster Bureaucracy*. New, higher quality type makes book texts more attractive and more readable.

Sara Lobman, a member of the Pathfinder editorial staff, explained that volunteers in different cities around the world organize themselves to take many of the initial steps in preparing the manuscripts to be retypeset.

With a little orientation, they can take a printed book, scan the pages, and check the scanned manuscript for errors by cross reading the book with a partner. The goal is 100 percent accuracy. Not all volunteers have scanners; some work with a digitized manuscript done by those having the equipment.

You don't need a computer to help. One volunteer cross read *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* while recovering from surgery. She read a manuscript that had been scanned and marked corrections in the margins for others to enter.

Teams of volunteers in San Francisco, Seattle, and the New York area have organized a division of labor to take advantage of the varying skills and interests.

Once a manuscript is returned to Pathfinder, the print shop workers begin redesigning the text, all with an eye to making each Pathfinder book as readable as possible with the ideas easily accessible. Currently some two dozen volunteers in six cities around the world are preparing 15 manuscripts.

'Socialism on Trial'

*Socialism on Trial* by James P. Cannon, one of the titles being retypeset, is currently in Pathfinder's hands. This book tells the story of the courtroom defense of the leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and of Teamsters Local 574 in Minneapolis against U.S. government prosecution. The government and its political police, the FBI, framed them up on "sedition" charges because of their active opposition to U.S. entry into World War II. This book becomes more timely than ever as the government attempts to narrow political rights, from federal harassment of those who oppose Washington's embargo and travel ban on Cuba to the expanded spying powers of the "antiterror" cops in Los Angeles.

Eva Braiman, who works in the desktop and design department of the print shop that produces Pathfinder books, said they are "organizing to cross read this manuscript rapidly to help speed it into production." She

explained, "We know about how long a book like this will take us. At a little over 180 pages, we can get it ready for the Pathfinder editors in about 28 hours."

Volunteers who want to be part of the international effort to keep all the Pathfinder arsenal in print should contact Pathfinder in New York at 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. Anyone wishing to contribute to the 1996 International Pathfinder Fund can send checks to the same address.

### Pathfinder Fund

CITY	GOAL	PAID	% of GOAL
Salt Lake City	\$3,600	\$2,700	75%
Miami	\$2,800	\$1,730	62%
Detroit	\$6,000	\$2,975	50%
Washington DC	\$3,500	\$1,708	49%
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$4,827	48%
Pittsburgh	\$6,000	\$2,825	47%
Cleveland	\$3,100	\$1,450	47%
Brooklyn	\$6,500	\$3,030	47%
Philadelphia	\$5,000	\$2,125	43%
Chicago	\$7,500	\$3,150	42%
Seattle*	\$9,000	\$3,230	36%
Los Angeles	\$12,000	\$4,158	35%
Greensboro	\$2,400	\$815	34%
Peoria	\$2,750	\$710	26%
Atlanta	\$2,700	\$675	25%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$375	25%
Newark	\$8,500	\$1,853	22%
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$1,315	19%
New York	\$8,000	\$1,473	18%
Birmingham	\$4,500	\$475	11%
Houston	\$3,000	\$300	10%
Des Moines	\$2,350	\$230	10%
Boston	\$6,000	\$250	4%
U.S. TOTAL	\$123,700	\$42,379	34%
Australia	\$750		
Canada		\$30	
Montreal	\$465		
Vancouver	\$100		
France	\$750	\$511	68%
Greece	\$200		
Iceland			
New Zealand	\$4,220	\$2,718	64%
Sweden	\$400		
United Kingdom			
INTERNATIONAL TOTAL	\$130,585	\$45,638	37%
SHOULD BE	\$125,000	\$87,500	70%
*Raised goal			

### Campaign for the socialist alternative!

- ☐ Sign me up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza. I want to campaign for the socialist alternative and against the parties of exploitation, racism, and war.
- ☐ Sign me up as a campaign supporter and keep me informed of protests, picket lines, and other political activities.
- ☐ Enclosed is a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution
- ☐ I want to invite a candidate to speak at my union, school, or organization
- ☐ Enclosed is \$10 for a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly, or \$6 for 4 months of *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish.

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ADDRESS _____			
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Mail to: Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009  
Compuserve: 104124,1405 Phone: (212) 328-1504



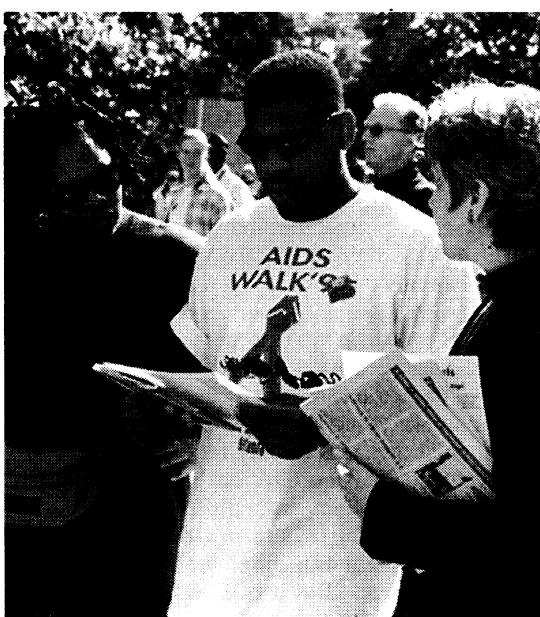
SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Sales at picket lines, on job

BY SARALOBMAN
"We sold a Militant subscription to a student from McGill University who was attending his first Militant Labor Forum on the General Motors strike here," Michel Dugré reports from Montreal.

Montreal are ahead of schedule on their subscription campaign goals. "We're not just selling in one place," Dugré noted. "Two people who came into the Pathfinder bookstore bought subs, and we've sold from community tables, and at political events."



Sales at AIDS Walk in Atlanta on October 20

Sales to bookstores and libraries (Not including Pathfinder bookstores)
Table with 5 columns: Cities, Goal, Sold, %, Previous months (Aug, July, June)
Rows include Morgantown, Cleveland, Boston, New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Des Moines, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Philadelphia, Birmingham, Twin Cities, Brooklyn, Seattle, Atlanta, Newark, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Greensboro, Houston, Miami, Peoria, and a TOTAL row.

Militant Subscription Drive OCTOBER 5 - NOVEMBER 24
Table with 8 columns: Location, Goal, Sold, %, Goal, Sold, Goal, Sold
Rows include Australia, Canada (Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver), France, New Zealand (Auckland, Christchurch), Sweden, United Kingdom (London, Manchester), United States (Miami, Boston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Twin Cities, Tucson, AZ, Brooklyn, Atlanta, Newark, Houston, San Francisco, Birmingham, AL, Des Moines, Detroit, Chicago, New York, Peoria, IL, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Washington, DC, Greensboro, NC, Denver, Morgantown, WV), International totals, and various unions (Australia, AMWU-Metal, AMWU-Food, IAM, New Zealand, EU, MWU, UFBGWU, UAW, UFCW, UMW, U.S. Total, United Kingdom, AEEU, TGWU, U.K. Total).

At a sale at the Peabody coal mines near Kayenta, Arizona, workers bought one Militant subscription and 35 single copies of the paper. Supporters in Miami are also on schedule, with 16 Militant subscriptions sold. And they've

gone over their goal for Perspectiva Mundial. "We sold 3 subscriptions to Perspectiva Mundial and one to the Militant at a demonstration against the U.S. embargo of Cuba that was held when Clinton spoke here," wrote Janet Post. "One guy said the Dominican group he was in was discussing the new laws against immigrants and he thought the magazine would help."

books that may be of interest. For example, some 130 books were ordered for classes at West Virginia University in Morgantown, including Is Biology Women's Destiny, Malcolm X Talks to Young People, and Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism by V.I. Lenin. Figures for Pathfinder bookstore sales for October should be sent in to the Militant business office no later than 12 noon E.S.T. on Monday, November 4.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD Georgia students join Young Socialists

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 14392, St. Paul, MN 55104. Tel: (612) 644-0051. Compuserve: 105162,605

to join the YS? Emily: I decided to join because it deals with many things I believe in. Something must be done. A lot of issues need to be brought out that people need to know about. I want to learn more as well. We have a class assignment to report on current events. I did one on the General Motors strike in Canada.

out. André: People are getting fed-up. Tom: What would you say to young people who are fed-up with the direction society is heading? André: Get involved, get educated, most importantly open your eyes to what's going on like our rights being stripped away by the government, like the same-sex marriage law, the anti-immigrant law. Emily: Educate yourself by reading and talking to people about issues having to do with what's going on like rights being taken away and interfered with. Tom: What are the plans for the YS in Athens in the weeks to come? André: We are making a flyer and signs to protest police brutality, especially the Anthony Báez case, to hand out at school and around town. Emily: We are going to start meeting as a chapter and study the Communist Manifesto.

BY TOM ALTER
ATHENS, Georgia — Recently two 17-year-old high school students, André Gallant and Emily Aland, joined the Young Socialists in Athens, Georgia. I had the chance to interview them after a YS meeting in Athens where the chapter there voted to meet weekly and carry out a regular class series. Tom: How did you meet the Young Socialists? André: I ran into a book table with books by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro on it. I've read books by Guevara and Marx. Revolutionary ideas and change have been on my mind. This is what I was looking for. Emily: I ran into the book table as well and went to a YS event on immigrant rights where a YS member from San Francisco spoke. Karolina, a YS member here in Athens, convinced me to come to the next meeting. Tom: Were you involved in politics before joining the YS? André: I've wanted to be involved in politics. I tried to get involved in school politics but it was all BS. Students have no rights. I wanted change. Emily: I've been involved in human rights protests, women's rights, and gay rights. Tom: What made you decide

Tom: Why the GM strike? Emily: It was two days after my first YS meeting, workers' struggle interests me. André: Joining the YS seems the only way for young people to get involved, to get out and protest. It's not just about a single issue. The future seems bleak, I want to turn it around. The politics of the YS attracted me. Tom: What do you think the prospects for building the YS are? André: I think they're super. For my peers, they really dug the ideas. They're scared of the word communism, though, because they think of Russia. Emily: That's something we're trying to change. André: Young people need to learn about the proletariat. We're starting a drive to get young people involved. We're putting YS flyers up in our school and trying to get a book table up during lunch. Emily: The YS is going to grow if we get

YS FUND DRIVE \$6000 BY NOVEMBER 15!
Table with 3 columns: CITY, GOAL, PAID
Rows include Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Miami, Peoria, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Twin Cities, and a TOTAL row.

36 new members in the YS! From July 10 to October 23
Table with 2 columns: City, # of new members
Rows include Athens, GA, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, MN, Morgantown, Newark, New York, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, D.C., and a Total row.

# Socialist: reject CIA conspiracy theory

Continued from front page

well over 1,000 Black community residents. My campaign statement painted these meetings in a positive light rather than describing them as Democratic Party get-out-the-vote operations from start to finish," said Ntweng.

Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters of Los Angeles and wealthy businessman Daniel Bakewell of the Brotherhood Crusade organized the meetings and encouraged people to reelect President William Clinton.

Another public meeting conducted by Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald, another Democrat, was a "Congressional Inquiry into Alleged Central Intelligence Agency Involvement in the South Central Los Angeles Crack Cocaine Drug Trade." The October 19 hearing was hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the House Select Committee on Intelligence. About 800 people heard day-long testimony from a parade of professors, writers, lawyers, cops, and community activists.

Ntweng said that "workers and others went to these meetings looking for solutions to the real problems they face in their communities. They were presented with nothing but conspiracy theories that are a total diversion from a real fight for Black rights." These so-called theories point workers away from developing a materialist understanding of the how the social and economic crises they face are rooted in class-divided society, and how they can be part of organizing a movement to change it, the SWP candidate said.

Ntweng also commented on the demands of the southern California SWP campaign statement which read, "Open all the contra-drug files now! Make the CIA, DEA, FBI, National Security Council come clean! Arrest and prosecute the government drug traffickers!"

"These demands foster the illusion that demands around drugs can be realized under capitalism. In fact, drugs are a major capitalist business. The cops and other government agencies are up to their ears in it; we shouldn't act shocked at that," said Ntweng.

"As capitalism declines alcoholism and other social ills proliferate, including drug abuse." The demands also perpetuate the illusion that the CIA and other government cop formations can be reformed. "These cops exist entirely in order to uphold capitalist rule. There is no way for them to come clean," Ntweng pointed out.

"This also leads me to say why it was such an error in the campaign statement to quote from Malcolm X completely out of context, thereby giving a wrong impression on what Malcolm X had to offer on this topic.

The statement read, "The capitalist system, as Malcolm X taught, aims to turn 'vic-

tims into criminals.'" By presenting Malcolm X's view in this light, the statement echoed the liberal approach to working people — that we are victims, first and last, Ntweng argued.

"Lifting that quote out of its context gives the impression that Malcolm looked at Blacks as victims instead of people who have the capacity to struggle and win.

"Malcolm X put forward that workers and youth cannot blame others for conditions such as drug abuse. He pointed out that we don't have to accept the alienation and degradation that the capitalist system brings us. We can fight for our rights and assert our humanity and self-worth in that process. Blacks are a vanguard section of the working class that will be in the forefront of the battles that are coming," said Ntweng.

Ntweng explained that it is widely recognized and accepted that the CIA has a sordid history of secret actions around the world and is assigned its share of Washington's ongoing attempts to eliminate threats to U.S. dominance. "But it is dead wrong to say that the CIA poured drugs into Black community in order to devastate it as the conspiracy theories do.

"Instead of repeating these stories we need to understand that Blacks face devastating conditions not because of some plot, but because of the day-to-day workings of capitalism, which profits off the exploitation of Blacks and other oppressed nationalities. Racism is also used by the ruling class to keep the working class divided.

"Capitalism is in a crisis. That is why we see increased assaults, including the



Militant/Jean Armbruster

**August 11 demonstration for affirmative action in San Diego. Concrete struggles to defend gains of working class are key to resisting bipartisan assault by capitalists.**

resegregation of the Black community, a rise in racist police brutality, and high unemployment hitting Blacks the hardest," said Ntweng.

Ntweng maintained that misleaders such as Waters don't point out the real enemy of Blacks: the government and all its agencies, the Democratic and Republican parties, and the wealthy ruling class that they represent.

"It is an election year and no accident that liberals in San Jose 'exposed' this issue," Ntweng continued. "They want to get votes for Democrats by painting Republicans as a special threat for working people. But it is Clinton who is leading the charge against immigrant rights, attacking gay rights by signing the Defense of Marriage Act, cutting the social wage with the Welfare Reform Act, and opening the door to attacks on affirmative action."

Ntweng campaigned outside of the congressional inquiry and commented, "I got a good response from people attending this event when I explained that we have to fight against the whole capitalist system. That is why I am a socialist.

"At the same time we can and must participate in the concrete struggles of the day that can push the rulers back—like defending affirmative action, calling for equal rights for immigrants, and opposing U.S. war moves against Cuba, Iraq, and elsewhere. And we need to break from relying on both the Democratic and Republican parties, which are a major obstacle to all struggles of working people."

*Gale Shangold is a member of Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees Local 482.*

## Cuban editor wins visa for U.S. tour

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

CHICAGO — Cuban poet Norberto Codina, editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, a magazine of art and literature, will be speaking at several Chicago-area colleges and universities November 10-16. Following his visit here, Codina will travel to the New York region, where he has received a number of speaking invitations.

Codina was recently informed by U.S. officials that they are granting him a visa to visit the United States. He has received invitations to speak on the theme of art and culture in Cuba from professors and student groups at some 15 universities and colleges in the Chicago and New York areas. Many of those issuing these invitations regard Codina receiving a visa as a significant victory for those who want to broaden cultural and other exchanges with Cuba and who want to hear the truth about that Caribbean nation. In past months the Clinton administration has denied visas to a number of Cu-

bans invited to speak in the United States.

Codina's speaking engagements are being coordinated by Félix Masud-Piloto, director of the Center for Latino Research at DePaul University. In this area Codina will speak at DePaul, Northwestern University, Northern Illinois University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Waubesa Community College, and Illinois Benedictine College. Academics at several other schools are also planning to have the Cuban editor speak.

Some students who participated in the Oc-



Militant/Janice Lynn

**Norberto Codina, editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba*.**

tober 12 demonstration in Washington, D.C., in defense of the rights of immigrants are beginning to help out on building Codina's speaking engagements.

For the past eight years, Codina has been the editor of *La Gaceta*, a prestigious magazine published by the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC). The July-August issue features a series of articles on Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, one of Cuba's best known film directors, who died in Havana earlier this year. The issue also includes an interview with Ernesto Sabato, one of Argentina's foremost novelists; and a collection of contemporary poetry from Holguín, an important cultural center in eastern Cuba.

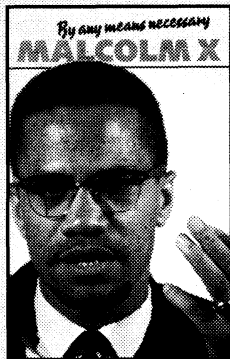
As a writer and editor, Codina has traveled to many parts of the world. He recently participated in a conference on "Culture in Cuba" held September 27-28 in Montreal. Last year Codina spoke at universities in Los Angeles, Houston, New York, and Washington, D.C. Earlier this year Codina was given the National Culture Award by the Cuba's Ministry of Culture.

*La Gaceta* is published in Spanish six times a year and is available through Pathfinder Press (410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014). The publishing house just announced a special student subscription rate of \$28 a year. The regular individual subscription rate is \$40. Those interested in Codina's speaking engagements can contact Félix Masud-Piloto at (312) 325-7317.

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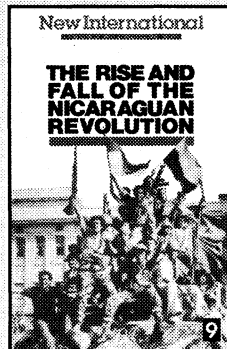
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# CIA blew up Cuban airliner in 1976

The following article is reprinted from the October 9, 1996, issue of the Cuban newsweekly *Granma Internacional*. It was originally published under the headline, "Time doesn't erase the pain."

BY JOAQUÍN ORAMAS

Twenty years of history go by in a flash. However, the inexorable passage of time hasn't been able to erase from the hearts and minds of Cubans the pain and indignation that shook our people's sensibility on learning of the terrible consequences of the sabotage of a Cubana airliner, perpetrated by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Minutes after taking off from the Barbados airport on October 6, 1976, a Cubana airliner with 73 people on board exploded in midair over the Caribbean Sea. All the passengers (57 Cubans, 11 North Koreans and five Guyanese) perished. Subsequent investigations confirmed that the explosion was the result of a sabotage perpetrated by counterrevolutionary elements who placed a bomb in the aircraft.

Venezuelans Freddy Lugo and Hernán Ricardo were charged with direct responsibility for the crime, and counterrevolutionary Cubans Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles were accused of masterminding the sabotage and providing the means for Lugo and Ricardo to carry it out.

The Venezuelans' confessions and supporting evidence stunned and angered millions of people. Photographs of more than one million people filling Revolution Square to express their repudiation, supported by condemnation of the horrific crime in every Cuban city and town, are tremendously moving.

How could some individuals' hatred for the efforts of an entire people to develop and defend its sovereignty lead to such

abominable deeds? That was the question on the lips of many sensible people who, personal beliefs and political positions aside, found such methods totally unacceptable. Clearly, the explosion wasn't the result of some desperate act, but part of a plan and method initiated immediately following the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. Counterrevolutionary bands organized by the CIA and sponsored by the U.S. government, after failing in their attempts to instigate fratricidal warfare on the island, tried to unleash terror on Cuba. Prior to the explosion, Cuban counterrevolutionary elements had carried out dozens of attacks on Cuban offices and installations as well as entities related to Cuba.

Shortly after mounting attacks on the Cuban embassy and the Air Panama offices in Colombia, CORU, a CIA organization of Cuban counterrevolutionaries, claimed responsibility for those and other acts of aggression and stated: "Very soon, we're going to attack aircraft in flight."

Echoing the Cuban government's accusations against those responsible for the crime, in October 1976 the Montreal daily *La Presse* recalled that Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles had both been trained by the CIA to assassinate Cuban leaders. It also revealed that they were linked to the murder of Orlando Letelier, former foreign minister of Chile's Popular Unity government.

Cuba revealed the facts surrounding the Barbados sabotage at the 5th Regional Navigation Conference, held in Lima in October 1976, and U.S. pressure was unable to deter the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) from condemning it at its general assembly. The ICAO resolution exhorted any state with the means to do so to pursue and punish with the utmost sever-



Prensa Latina

A million people demonstrate in Havana's Plaza de la Revolución, May 1, 1981. Mobilizations like this show Cuban people's unshaking determination to remain sovereign.

ity those criminals who carried out this act, so that the sanction would correspond to the magnitude of the crime and constitute a deterrent to future sabotage.

What did the U.S. government do? It attempted to silence the international repercussions provoked by the sabotage. Raúl Roa, Cuba's foreign minister, made this clear during a conference held in Trinidad and Tobago to discuss the steps to be taken in relation to the investigation and evidence that had come to light concerning the Barbados sabotage. The conference was attended by the host country, Cuba, Barbados, Guyana and Venezuela.

Today Orlando Bosch flaunts his impunity on the streets of Miami, protected by the U.S. authorities. Posada Carriles escaped from prison, with the aid of Venezuelan elements and the CIA, to work subsequently as one of the instigators of the U.S. dirty war against the Sandinista government. He was also linked with the Salvadoran death

squads, always at the service of the CIA.

During these 20 years, the U.S. government and even the ICAO have maintained a wall of silence over the criminal sabotage of the Cuban passenger flight transporting young athletes, students and workers. They did not even recall it during the recent controversy over the downing of the two light aircraft piloted by counterrevolutionary elements that violated Cuban airspace.

It didn't suit their purposes to talk about the Barbados sabotage, nor about the thousands of attacks on Cubans, Cuban properties and friends of Cuba.

Nevertheless, time has not erased the memory of the profound pain that shook the Cuban people when that event occurred, nor has it diminished one iota the validity of what Fidel said to the over one million Cubans who filled Revolution Square to honor the martyrs of that terrible explosion: "When an energetic and virile people weep, injustice trembles."

## New rules allow L.A. cops to set up 'red' squads

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Taking its cue from Washington's "antiterrorist" drive, the Los Angeles Police Department has shrunk the guidelines that are supposed to ensure against illegal activity by its Anti-Terrorist Division (ATD).

The rule changes were approved October 15 by the Police Commission, which is supposed to be a civilian oversight panel, but is in fact a rubber stamp and window dressing for the cops.

The new rules authorize the ATD to engage in secret surveillance and infiltration on the basis of "reasonable suspicion" of criminal activity, not the "probable cause," currently stipulated.

ATD cops will now be authorized to begin a probe with electronic spying and other techniques. Presently, they're supposed to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if such measures are justified.

Authorization by the ATD commander to put someone under surveillance is now

deemed "impractical" and will no longer be required.

The revision of the rules won early endorsement from Police Commission president Raymond Fisher. The *Los Angeles Times* touts him as "a trusted member of the city's civil rights community." Fisher says he will personally monitor police compliance.

Police Chief Willie Williams was asked if the new rules would safeguard people from police spying. He replied, "I'm confident that under my leadership they will."

The American Civil Liberties Union and others urged that the present rules be maintained. ACLU spokesman Allan Parachini told the *Times* that while he did not question the motivations of Williams, Fisher, and the commission, he was concerned about those who might come after them.

The ATD was created in 1984, replacing the Public Disorder and Intelligence Division. The PDID had been crippled by revelations of wholesale trampling on civil liberties.

Like the earlier "red" squads, the PDID was charged with policing "subversion." It was found to have spied on, infiltrated, and disrupted unions, left-wing organizations, groups opposed to the Vietnam war, civil rights groups, and others it took a dim view of. Then Mayor Thomas Bradley and members of the Police Commission were among those spied on.

With the disclosure of some of these facts, the ACLU and others filed a court suit, but then settled out of court. The PDID was replaced by the more up-to-date Anti-Terrorist Division and the guidelines were adopted, supposedly to ensure against

abuses of democratic rights.

But the leopard hasn't changed its spots. For example, in February 1995 the city abruptly dropped its prosecution of 20 members of the Revolutionary Communist Party rather than provide information about ATD involvement in the case.

The defendants were charged with hurling rocks and bottles at cops during several protests. They responded they had been clubbed by the cops.

On learning of the role of the ATD — which supposedly limits its activity to dealing with terrorism — they made a motion for specific information. When the judge ordered the prosecution to comply, the case was dropped. The new rules are subject to review by the city council. The Police Commission said there was no indication that the council intends to exercise that option.

## Judge declares mistrial, Gammage's killer walks

BY EDWIN FRUIT

PITTSBURGH — On October 18 Judge David Cashman declared a mistrial in the case of two cops charged with involuntary manslaughter in the beating death of Jonny Gammage one year ago. The pretext was a statement by county coroner Cyril Wecht, who was testifying for the prosecution on the cause of Gammage's death. The coroner's report said the 31-year-old businessman, who was Black, died of suffocation through compression of his neck and chest.

One of the cops' lawyers demanded of Wecht, "You tell me what my client did. Tell me what my client did from A to Z."

The coroner replied, "No. It's not for me to tell you what your client did. It's for the client to tell me, the ladies and gentlemen of the jury, what he did, what he was doing there, and why he was participating in this."

At this point the defense asked for a mistrial and got it from the judge. The justification was that the suggestion by the witness that one of the defendants had to take the stand contravened the law that says de-

fendants are presumed to be innocent and don't have to take the witness stand to reply to any accusations made against them.

The previous day, a surprise witness had been called — a tow truck driver who was at the scene at the time of Gammage's confrontation with the cops. The driver, Frank Belajac, said the cops were the aggressors, repeatedly hitting and kicking Gammage after stopping his car. This contradicted the earlier testimony of one of the cops.

Opponents of police brutality had been attending the trial and organizing the public protest actions demanding the cops be brought to justice.

Dee Hart, a leader of the Coalition of African Americans for Justice, said she was not surprised by Cashman's ruling. "This whole thing was a mistrial from the beginning. The fact that all five officers are not on trial, that they are being charged with involuntary manslaughter instead of first degree murder, and that an all-white jury was obtained from the other end of the state makes this whole case a mistrial." She told this reporter that about 75 people came to

the coalition meeting that evening expressing outrage at the decision of the judge.

Pete Shell, an activist with the Campus Coalition for Peace and Justice, said in a phone interview that it is now more important than ever to make an October 26 rally in downtown Pittsburgh a big action. This had been planned for several weeks to coincide with the trial to keep the public protests visible.

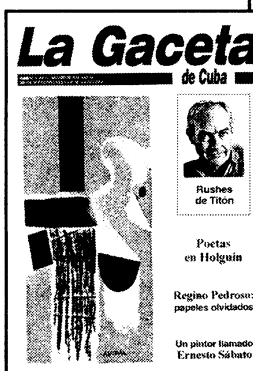
The judge said he would reschedule a new trial date within 120 days. The jurors, chosen from Chester County near Philadelphia, were dismissed and a new jury will be picked from another county to be determined by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. It has not yet been determined whether the trial of a third cop charged in the case will be held before or after the rescheduling of this one.

Edwin Fruit is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1976 and is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for the 22nd district for Representative in the General Assembly.

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# GM strike

Continued from front page

to assign workers at one plant to voluntary overtime at a second plant.

The stakes for GM in this strike were high. While GM's profits for the third quarter of 1996 were \$1.27 billion, up from \$642 million for the same period last year, they only earn \$200 per vehicle produced in North America as compared to Chrysler's \$1,000, according to one analyst. In preparation for the walkout, GM amassed a \$13 billion cash reserve and stockpiled parts to keep its U.S. assembly operations going.

The strike, which idled all of GM's operations in Canada and nearly 20,000 GM workers in the United States and Mexico, is expected to reduce the company's fourth quarter earnings by about 60 cents a share and result in 90,000 units in lost production. But analysts say GM will probably be able to make up for most of the lost production over the coming months. "This is not going to keep us from being able to perform," Dean Munger, GM's chief Canadian negotiator, said. GM shares on the New York Stock Exchange rose 75 cents on news of the settlement.

## "Temporary workers with low wages"

"GM doesn't want to have thirty-year people any more. They want temporary workers who they can pay lower wages," said striker Francois Poiré, a 17-year veteran with GM, who has been laid off from four different GM plants in Canada and has already received his layoff notice from the giant Oshawa complex. Strikers totally blocked access to the South Oshawa complex on October 16 after hearing of GM's strong third quarter earnings. GM was obliged to use helicopters to bring maintenance workers into the plant. Meanwhile, workers occupied the North Oshawa plant to prevent the company from moving dies out of the plant in order to move production elsewhere.

At the Ste-Thérèse plant here which makes the Camaro and Firebird sports cars, half of the 2,900 CAW members have been laid off for the past year with only one shift operating. Obligatory overtime of up to 50 hours a week has helped GM avoid calling back workers. The Ste-Thérèse plant is the only auto assembly plant in Quebec. The Quebec government granted GM a \$220-million interest free loan to keep the plant open in 1987. The car maker has also benefited from tax breaks estimated at more than \$100 million.

Since 1992, GM has slashed the number of its money-losing parts plants from fifty to fourteen. An article in the June 3 *Wall Street Journal* said GM is preparing to cut deeper by "spinning off" its Delphi parts division.

## Workers offer solidarity

Eight carloads of striking newspaper workers from the Detroit *Free Press* and *Detroit News*, as well as four vans of UAW members and a truckload of food and supplies descended on the picket lines at the GM Windsor facilities in Windsor on Canadian Thanksgiving Day in mid-October.

Lambert Roy, one of 120 employees laid off from the Mackie company in Quebec as a result of the GM strike, told the Montreal daily, *La Presse*, "If I was in the same situation, I would fight as well."

Katy LeRougetel, a member of CAW Local 187 in Montreal, Marie-Claire David in Montreal, and Mitra Sharma in Toronto contributed to this article.

## CALENDAR

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**Election Night Open House.** Join James Harris and Southern California Socialist Workers candidates to discuss continuing to campaign for a socialist alternative. Tues., Nov. 5, 7 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

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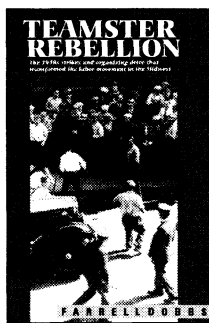
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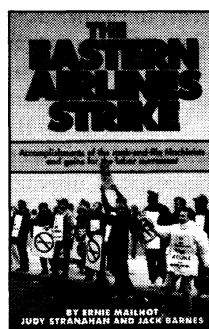
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## Trade unions: their past, present, and future

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Leon Trotsky

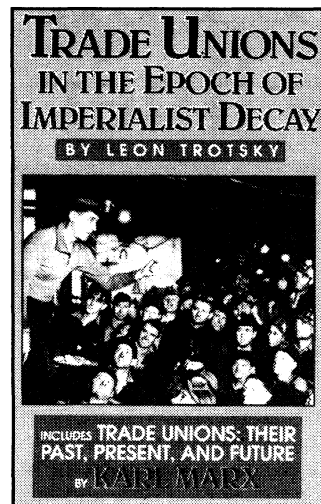
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## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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**The Socialist Alternative in 1996: Hear James Harris, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate.** Sat., November 2. Buffet dinner, 6 p.m. Program, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$5 for dinner, \$5 for program. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**The Socialist Alternative in the 1996 Elections.** Speakers: Socialist Workers candidates for U.S.

Congress and Senate from Massachusetts. Fri., November 1, 8:00 p.m. 780 Tremont St. (corner Mass. Ave.) Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

**The Russian Revolution: Its meaning for today.** Following presentation and discussion, film showing of *Ten Days that Shook the World*. Fri., November 1, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

#### Pittsburgh

**The 1996 Elections: Capitalism in Crisis.**

Speaker: Edwin Fruit, Socialist Workers candidate for State Representative, 22nd District. Fri., November 1, 6:30 reception, 7:30 p.m. program. 1103 E. Carson St. Donation \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

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#### Christchurch

**Elections in Bosnia and the Deepening Crisis in Yugoslavia: An Eyewitness Report from the Balkans.** Speaker: James Robb, Communist League. Sat., November 2, 7:30 p.m. 199 High St. Donation \$3. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

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**Ssh** — One stock market analyst bumbles that in the current buyers' market, stock "values" have soared to a height exceeded only by the record years of 1923-29. Which



**Harry Ring**

brings to mind the Russian adage that one doesn't speak of the rope in the house of the condemned man.

**A growth industry** — "There are wars all over the world, bombs all over the world," notes John

Hutchins, director of international services at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins Medical Center. And, he adds, "casualty patients" are a new, lucrative "marketing niche." Like the 45 Ecuadorians wounded in last year's war with Peru, who are being fitted with artificial limbs at Johns Hopkins at \$35,000 apiece.

**So what can you do?** — "It's difficult to impose a moral code, if you will, on retailers." — Jim Miller of the U.S. Agriculture Dept. trying to explain why L.A. supermarket chains charge a lot more for milk than mom n' pop groceries.

**The system that works** — In the past three months, 2.5 million pounds of Alaska salmon have been

ground up and dumped back into the sea. Steps to maximize output had been more successful than needed. Food banks wanted in on the huge surplus but couldn't come up with the necessary cash, "It's not something we're proud of," said an embarrassed fish and game official.

**Moral dilemma** — "If a 17-year-old gives information on a very large drug job, do we give him [£] 20,000 (\$US12,600)? Do we give an informer a mountain bike, and how does he explain that to his parents? Do we tell his parent?" — An English cop who sees minuses as well as pluses in recruiting teen-age informers.

**Camping tip** — If you're

headed for the Arctic, don't leave without a North Face Apogee-24 tent. Will take winds up to 90 mph. \$850. And pack a Magellan Systems Micro Com-M satellite phone. The phone \$12,800. Rates, \$4.25 a minute.

**Nothing's perfect** — As the result of a computer system foul-up, thousands of angry customers of British Gas received shutoff warnings before they got their bills. The company denied the mess had been worsened by staff cuts.

**Woke them up?** — With an assist from the Indiana State Teachers Association, Willarrose Parsons was reinstated, with back pay, to the teaching position she was fired from

three years ago. Administrators had her dismissed for "laughing too loudly."

**Best of both worlds** — Catalog item: "Jesus Night-Light...casts a warm, serene glow — makes it safer to get up at night! Sturdy plastic...\$3.99."

**Greetings** — If you're one of our new subscribers, this is to let you know that, in good measure, clippings sent in by readers keep this column [and the writer] going. If you see an item you think will fit, send it to:

Great Society, c/o Pathfinder Bookstore, 2546 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 90006. (fax: (213) 380-1268. Thanks.

## 'Communist theories are guiding line for action'

Reprinted below are excerpts of James P. Cannon's introduction to the first book ever produced by the forerunner of Pathfinder Press. Appearing in January 1929, the book was titled *The Draft Program of the Communist International—A Criticism of Fundamentals* by Leon Trotsky. It was later included as part of a larger work entitled *The Third International after Lenin*. A new edition of the latter book has just been published by Pathfinder.

Leon Trotsky was part of the central leadership team of the Bolshevik Party from the

project, thus applies now to the formally adopted program of the Comintern on all essential questions, and his challenge to many of its formulations and conclusions acquires thereby all the greater seriousness.

The question of the program of the Communist International, and the criticism brought against it by one of the foremost leaders of the Russian revolution and the international communist movement, confronts the communist proletariat now as a theoretical and political question of the greatest magnitude with which all practical issues of strategy and tactics are connected.

Communist theories are not abstractions but the guiding line for action. False tactics in the struggle proceed from false programmatic formulations. This axiom of Marxism has been given a fresh and tragic proof, as Trotsky points out, in the enormous blunders committed in recent years since the death of Lenin. Programmatic questions are questions of life and death for the international proletarian revolution.

Trotsky's Criticism of the Draft Program comes to grips with the principal theoretical error which sums up and motivates the opportunist tactics pursued in recent years in the internal questions of the Soviet Union as well as in the international movement: the revisionist theory of socialism in one country. Basing himself on the fundamental teachings of Marx and Lenin, Trotsky turns all his guns on this new revisionism which has been smuggled into the Communist International since Lenin died, to its great detriment. He attacks it from all sides, tearing away the covering of falsely applied quotations from Lenin and reveals its non-Leninist essence, battering down the whole structure of falsification and scholasticism upon which it is built.

Trotsky not only annihilates the new revisionism with the hammer blows of Marxism and Leninism. He also exposes down to their roots the tactical errors connected with it and points the way for their avoidance in the future. His criticism is a searchlight in the fog of official propaganda, scholasticism, and administrative decree which has been substituted for the ideological leadership of the Executive Committee of the Communist International in earlier years....

The criticism deals with the role of American imperialism and with the prospect of new revolutionary situations arising from its hegemony and growing aggression. The section on the Chinese revolution and its lessons elucidates the problems of the Chinese revolution and enables the American reader, for the first time, to glimpse the actualities of this world historical event. The theses, articles, and speeches of Trotsky and the other leaders of the Russian Opposition on the problems and tasks of the Chinese revolution, which estimated the whole course of events with the most remarkable precision, were suppressed and concealed from the parties of the entire International.

This unbelievable and absolutely unprecedented procedure becomes all the more monstrous in the light of the subsequent developments which wholly confirmed the correctness of the position of Trotsky and his colleagues and revealed the Menshevik tactics of Stalin and Bukharin as the source of the cruel defeats of the Chinese proletariat. Trotsky's Criticism of the Program draws the lessons of the period of the Chinese revolution which culminated with the Canton uprising, lays bare the errors of the leadership with all their tragic consequences and the incalculable menace for the future contained

in the attempt to conceal or justify these errors in the adopted program.

In the Chinese revolution in 1926-27 the Opposition led by Trotsky proposed the slogan of soviets uniting the workers and the peasants, under the leadership of the former against the bourgeoisie. They wanted to warn the workers and peasants not to trust the leaders of the Kuomintang or of the Left Kuomintang. They wanted the workers and the vanguard of the peasants to arm themselves. They wanted complete independence for the Communist Party and in general a course toward the establishment of a democratic dictatorship through the workers and peasants soviets.

The Stalin-Bukharin leadership rejected all these proposals of the Leninist Opposition in favor of the Menshevik policy of union with the liberal bourgeoisie which in actual practice gave the hegemony to the bourgeoisie, prevented the real development of the independent Communist Party and led to the defeat of the working class. The bourgeois "allies" of the proletariat became the hangmen of the revolution just as the Opposition foretold....

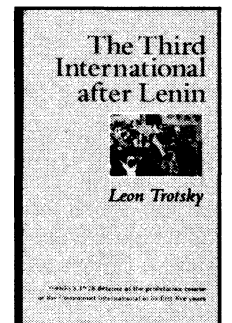
The formation of "Farmer-Labor" parties—that source of such exaggerated hopes and unbounded mistakes in the American party—is reviewed at length in this volume.

from Pathfinder

### The Third International after Lenin

Leon Trotsky

Trotsky's alternative to Stalin's course toward gutting the revolutionary program of the Communist International. Addressed to delegates attending the 1928 congress of the International in Moscow, Trotsky's critique was banned in the Soviet Union. But its publication in other countries helped gather together the forces that would continue to fight for an international communist perspective. \$25.95



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 8, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

time of the October 1917 revolution in Russia and of the Communist International in its early years. Following the death of V.I. Lenin in 1924, Trotsky became the principal leader of the Left Opposition, formed to wage a battle against the petty-bourgeois social forces led by Joseph Stalin, and to defend the communist perspectives the Bolshevik Party had fought for.

Written from exile in Soviet Central Asia in 1928, *The Third International after Lenin* is a defense of the proletarian course that had guided the Communist (or Third) International in its early years. Its main component is a criticism of the draft program presented by Nikolai Bukharin and Joseph Stalin to the International's Sixth World Congress, held that year in Moscow.

One of those attending the congress was James P. Cannon, a founder and central leader of the Communist Party in the United States. He subsequently was the founding leader of the Socialist Workers Party, and was its national chairman emeritus at the time of his death in 1974.

A member of the congress's program commission, Cannon was one of a handful of delegates given a copy of Trotsky's document through an evident slipup in the bureaucratic cracks. Another delegate receiving a copy was Maurice Spector, a leader of the Communist Party of Canada.

Cannon and Spector both became convinced of the correctness of Trotsky's arguments, and smuggled copies of the document back to North America. Passing it from hand to hand, the two communist leaders won over a nucleus of supporters. Within several weeks Cannon was expelled from the party, together with other leading working-class members. They then began a public fight for the communist perspective.

*The Third International after Lenin* is copyright © Pathfinder Press. The item below is reprinted with permission.



BY JAMES P. CANNON

The Communist International, which was organized in 1919, first adopted its program at the Sixth World Congress held in July-August 1928, after having previously considered drafts at the Fourth Congress in 1922 and at the Fifth Congress in 1924. The document published here is a commentary by L.D. Trotsky on the draft program drawn up by Bukharin and Stalin before the Sixth Congress and which was subsequently adopted without any important changes. The criticism of Trotsky, written before the Sixth Congress and directed at the Bukharin-Stalin

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

November 5, 1971

**SAN FRANCISCO** — A new wave of antiwar opposition is sweeping the armed forces today, manifesting itself in action more often than in the past. One example of this new burst of antiwar activity is the petition signed by more than 1,000 crew members of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Coral Sea, asking Congress the halt the ship's scheduled return to Vietnam Nov. 12.

Seaman Larry Harris, a former *Coral Sea* crew member now stationed at the Treasure Island Navy base here, told the *Militant* how he and others began circulating the petition after hearing about the drive in San Diego by members of the crew of the U.S.S. *Constellation* and the San Diego antiwar movement to keep that aircraft carrier from sailing to Vietnam.

Harris and several others typed up a petition and circulated it shortly before the *Coral Sea* docked at the Naval Air Station at Alameda, Calif., in September. They gathered more than 300 signatures in a few days. They expected to get many more signatures from the 4,500-man crew, but the executive officer and two chief petty officers seized the petition.

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

November 2, 1946

Headed by the organized labor movement, the masses in the American-controlled section of Korea are fighting back with powerful demonstrations against the oppressive rule of the American Military Government.

News of successive waves of revolt by striking workers in the American zone of Korea broke through the iron curtain of censorship last week. The Koreans demand the independence they were promised at Cairo by Roosevelt in 1944, as well as freedom of trade union activity and an end to the terror regime, which is depriving them of elementary democratic rights.

The demand of the Koreans for greater distribution of food to the starving masses was answered by the calling out of troops of the Sixth Infantry Division, after AMG authorities appealed for assistance at several points in the Division area. Bloody struggles followed in many centers.

At Taegu, police casualties included 50 killed and 30 seriously injured. At Kongehen, some 10,000 Koreans disarmed and kidnapped the local police, burning down the post-office and police stations.

According to an Oct. 21 AP dispatch from Seoul, the capital, Koreans attacked a police station a few yards south of the border of Russian-occupied North Korea.

# Vote Socialist Workers

There is an alternative for working people and their allies to the two parties of economic depression, racism, and war in the U.S. elections November 5. It is to vote Socialist Workers — James Harris for president, Laura Garza for vice-president, and for the local candidates listed on this page.

The two-party system in the United States is used to hook workers and youth into thinking we have a stake in supporting the capitalist rulers' moves against us. After all, if we don't like Tweedledum, we can always vote for Tweedledee. By mid-October Clinton had pretty much wrapped up the presidential election. He has demonstrated his willingness to go to war to defend U.S. imperialism — war moves in the last year alone include Iraq, Yugoslavia, Liberia, the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Straits, Haiti, and Cuba. This, coupled with his support for the Welfare Reform Act, anti-immigrant legislation, the Defense of Marriage Act, and laws restricting democratic rights gives the rulers confidence that Clinton is ready, able, and willing to lead the charge against working people in the United States and around the world.

Dole is still favored by the majority of business executives, many of whom think: why not push harder and faster against workers' wages and social gains? The Republican contender tried to take advantage of the economic stagnation that is reality for millions of working and middle-class people to run on a program of economic growth. But this effort has largely fizzled.

The capitalist class as a whole has decided that their best option for now is a Clinton White House with a Republican Congress. That would make it easiest to sidetrack workers' anger and frustration at the bosses' offensive onto blaming one or the other party.

But no matter how the details shake out, one thing's for sure: workers will be the central target of their attacks either way.

The Socialist Workers candidates offer a different answer. They point to the road taken by thousands of workers and youth from around the world who poured into the streets of Washington, D.C., October 12 to demand equal rights for immigrants

and to proclaim that no human being is illegal. They point to the road taken by auto workers in Canada and public service workers in France who refuse to surrender hard-won gains without a fight. Socialist Workers candidates hold up the example of the Cuban revolution, where workers and farmers kicked out a U.S.-backed dictatorship 37 years ago, overthrew the capitalist class, began reorganizing society in their own interests, and have been defending their socialist revolution, arms in hand, ever since. "We can do that here," they explain.

The socialist candidates know the struggle doesn't stop on election day. On November 6 they'll be back on the streets joining in these fights and looking for those who can be won to the communist movement. The *Militant* urges our readers to join them in these important activities:

- YS Recruitment Drive. The Young Socialists have pledged to win 80 new members by December 1. So far, 36 young people have joined the organization. Supporters of the socialist campaign can invite YS members to speak at their schools, work places, and house meetings.
  - Campaign to win new readers to socialist press. Take a goal in the campaign to win new readers to the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, and to sell copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. These periodicals tell the truth about the crisis of capitalism and the struggles of working people.
  - Sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets. They are the tools working people need to understand and fight in the world today and to learn the lessons of 150 years of struggle.
  - Attend and build the Socialist Educational Conferences scheduled for November 29 through December 1 in Atlanta; Peoria, Illinois; San Francisco; and Washington, D.C. For more information see the advertisement on the front page.
- So vote for the socialist candidates November 5 and then, like them, role up your sleeves and join the worldwide fight against capitalism and for socialism.

# Get the facts right

The masthead of the *Militant* reads, "A socialist newsweekly published in the interests of working people." The *Militant* makes a promise to working people — we tell the truth. We stand behind what we write and have the facts to prove it. This is the paper's political responsibility.

We encourage readers to send the *Militant* articles about political developments and struggles by working people and the oppressed all over the world. The *Militant* couldn't exist without its worker-correspondents. To help make sure these articles meet our high standards of accuracy, we are taking this opportunity to reaffirm and publish our sourcing policy.

The *Militant* editorial staff needs to verify the facts in every article that appears in the paper. Sourcing starts with interviews, as well as facts from other newspapers, television, and radio. No article will be considered for publication without source materials.

It's important to get the names of those quoted in the *Militant*. This paper's policy is not to use anonymous quotes, or just individuals' first names. When a correspondent asks, "May I quote you for an article in the *Militant*?" they should ask for the full name. It's often useful to find out the person's union affiliation and age as well. Verify that you've written down the correct spelling of the person's name while you're at it. Many people like to see their name in the paper, but only if it's accurately spelled and identified.

When the source is an interview it should be noted in the article submitted. Be prepared to fax your notes to the *Militant* if there's any question that needs to be verified. Leaflets for the spelling of names and clippings from newspapers for quotations are other examples of source materials. If you use portions of an article previously published in the *Militant*, be sure to cite that as a source, and when possible include the clipping.

One common mistake is the misspelling of names and places. Be sure to double-check with the person or check a map or dictionary. Other common mistakes are numbers, dates, accents on names, and the exact names of political parties and unions. A source is needed for all of the above mentioned; it's easy to misremember such details.

Judge the sources you are using from a political standpoint. Not every "fact" that appears in a bourgeois newspaper is true. Working-class correspondents need to judge: Who is saying this, why do they say it, and is this accurate? Supposedly neutral descriptions, terms, or wording used by the capitalist press often slip in their own class bias. It's better to report it in your own words.

Each source submitted with an article to the *Militant* should be labeled with letters, from A to Z. Use numbers to indicate the source in each particular lettered source. For example, take a fact (1) from an article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (letter A). The source for that fact would be A1 — and so on. Marking these source references for each paragraph of your article will make it possible for the *Militant* editors and copy editors to do an accurate job.

Working people want to be armed with the facts. By sticking to these guidelines, all *Militant* correspondents can help make their paper an effective, powerful weapon in discussing and acting in the political struggles of the international working class.

# SWP candidates in the November 5 election

Listed below are the Socialist Workers Party candidates for national, state, and local office. The socialist presidential and vice-presidential candidates — James Harris and Laura Garza — are on the ballot in seven states, and socialist candidates for other offices are running in 18 states and the District of Columbia. Due to undemocratic election laws designed to keep working-class candidates off the ballot, most of the Socialist Workers candidates will not appear on the ballot. In such cases, the candidates are running as write-ins and their names have been indicated with an asterisk(\*). Included here are the candidates' ages and union affiliations, where applicable. For an explanation of the union acronyms, see the end of this list.

**PRESIDENT:** James Harris, 48, UFCW

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Laura Garza, 37

## ALABAMA

John Hawkins, 48, UMW, U.S. Senate\*  
Kari J. Sachs, 31, USWA, U.S. Congress, 4th CD\*  
Tim Mailhot, 43, USWA, U.S. Congress, 6th CD\*  
George Williams, 45, UAW, U.S. Congress, 7th CD\*  
Jeanne FitzMaurice, 50, USWA, Public Service Commissioner\*

## CALIFORNIA

Susan Zarate, 40, San Francisco County Board of Supervisors  
Marklyn Wilson, 48, UTU, U.S. Congress, 7th CD\*  
Steve Gordon, 25, U.S. Congress, 8th CD\*  
Omari Musa, 52, OCAW, U.S. Congress, 9th CD\*  
Vanessa Knapton, 26, UTU, U.S. Congress, 29th CD\*  
John Benson, OCAW, U.S. Congress, 32nd CD\*  
Virginia Garza, U.S. Congress, 33rd CD\*  
Thabo Ntweng, 49, IAM, U.S. Congress, 35th CD\*  
Laura Anderson, State Assembly District 46\*

## FLORIDA

Seth Galinsky, 39, UTU, U.S. Congress, 21st CD\*  
Janet Post, 46, IAM, U.S. Congress, 17th CD\*

## GEORGIA

Arlene Rubinstein, 46, UNITE, U.S. Senate\*  
Dorothy Kolis, 45, UAW, U.S. Congress, 5th CD\*

## ILLINOIS

Frank Forrestal, 41, UAW, U.S. Senate\*  
Kristin Meriam, 28, UTU, U.S. Congress, 4th CD\*  
Tami Peterson, 19, USWA, U.S. Congress, 5th CD\*  
Reyes Gaona, 36, U.S. Congress, 7th CD\*  
Aislinn Pulley, 17, U.S. Congress, 9th CD\*  
Angela Lariscy, 31, OCAW, U.S. Congress, 18th CD\*

## IOWA

Shirley Peña, 40, UAW, U.S. Senate  
Richard McBride, 53, UFCW, U.S. Congress, 4th CD

## MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew Buchanan, 38, UAW, U.S. Senate\*  
Mary Nell Bockman, 37, IAM, U.S. Congress, 9th CD\*  
Ryan Kelly, 22, IAM, U.S. Congress, 5th CD\*  
Douglas Hord, 44, UTU, U.S. Congress, 8th CD\*

## MICHIGAN

Willie Reid, UAW, U.S. Congress, 14th CD  
Mark Gilsdorf, 23, UAW, U.S. Senate\*  
Douglas Douthat, UAW, U.S. Congress, 12th CD\*  
Cynthia Jaquith, USWA, U.S. Congress, 15th CD\*  
Rosa Garmendia, U.S. Congress, 11th CD\*

## MINNESOTA

Thomas Fiske, 52, IAM, U.S. Senate  
Jennifer Benton, 27, IAM, U.S. Congress, 5th CD  
Doug Nelson, 21, State House of Representatives District 63A\*  
Tony Lane, 44, IAM, U.S. Congress, 4th CD\*

## NEW JERSEY

Olga Rodriguez, 48, IAM, U.S. Senate  
William Estrada, 29, U.S. Congress, 13th CD  
Toni Jackson, 29, U.S. Congress, 10th CD  
Stefanie Trice, 25, UTU, U.S. Congress, 6th CD\*  
Robert Robertson, 37, OCAW, U.S. Congress, 7th CD

## NEW YORK

Eleanor García, 43, U.S. Congress, 12th CD  
Martín Koppel, 39, U.S. Congress, 10th CD\*  
David Berg, 25, U.S. Congress, 11th CD\*  
Abby Tilsner, 30, U.S. Congress, 14th CD\*  
Brock Satter, 25, U.S. Congress, 15th CD\*

## NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Rogers, UNITE, Governor\*

Karen Kopperud, UTU, U.S. Senate\*

## OHIO

Roni McCann, 35, UNITE, U.S. Congress, 10th CD\*  
Kibwe Diarra, 49, UAW, U.S. Congress, 11th CD\*  
Ryan Lewis, 23, U.S. Congress, 14th CD\*

## PENNSYLVANIA

Edwin Fruit, 50, IAM, State Representative 22nd District  
Malcolm Jarrett, 26, U.S. Congress, 14th CD\*

## TEXAS

Jerry Freiwirth, 45, OCAW, U.S. Congress, 25th CD  
Lea Sherman, 47, IAM, U.S. Senate\*  
Lief Gutthuidaschmitt, 25, U.S. Congress, 29th CD\*

## UTAH

Dan Fein, 51, USWA, Governor\*  
Janine Dukes, 24, Lt. Governor\*  
John Langford, 42, USWA, U.S. Congress, 3rd CD

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sam Manuel, 47, UTU, Delegate to House  
Brian Williams, 44, USWA, City Council at Large\*  
Mary Martin, 44, IAM, U.S. Senate\*

## WASHINGTON

Jeff Powers, 52, UTU, Governor\*  
Melissa Harris, 27, U.S. Congress, 7th CD\*

## WEST VIRGINIA

Dennis Richter, 48, UTU, Governor\*  
David Salner, 52, OCAW, U.S. Senate\*

\* indicates candidate is write-in ballot status; all others are on the ballot

Unions:  
IAM - International Association of Machinists  
OCAW - Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers  
UAW - United Auto Workers  
UFCW - United Food and Commercial Workers  
UMWA - United Mine Workers of America  
UNITE - Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees  
USWA - United Steel Workers of America  
UTU - United Transportation Union  
‡- Young Socialists



# Uno-Ven oil workers fight lockout in Illinois

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important

After negotiations broke down, Uno-Ven locked out the union to prevent a strike and hired replacement workers to keep the refinery running. They have also employed the Assets Protection Team of Vance Security, a well-known strike breaking outfit, to videotape and observe pickets at the three gates in an attempt to intimidate workers.

ber noted that prior to the lockout, it wasn't uncommon for operators to work 16 hours a day, 6 or 7 days in a row.

Nick Kozak, a 14-year veteran of Uno-Ven, said that since the lock-out began he's thought about why the company does not hire more people. "We'd work 700 or 800 hours of overtime a year," he commented, "Some of these kids graduating from high school who need jobs should get a chance and the company should hire some more people."

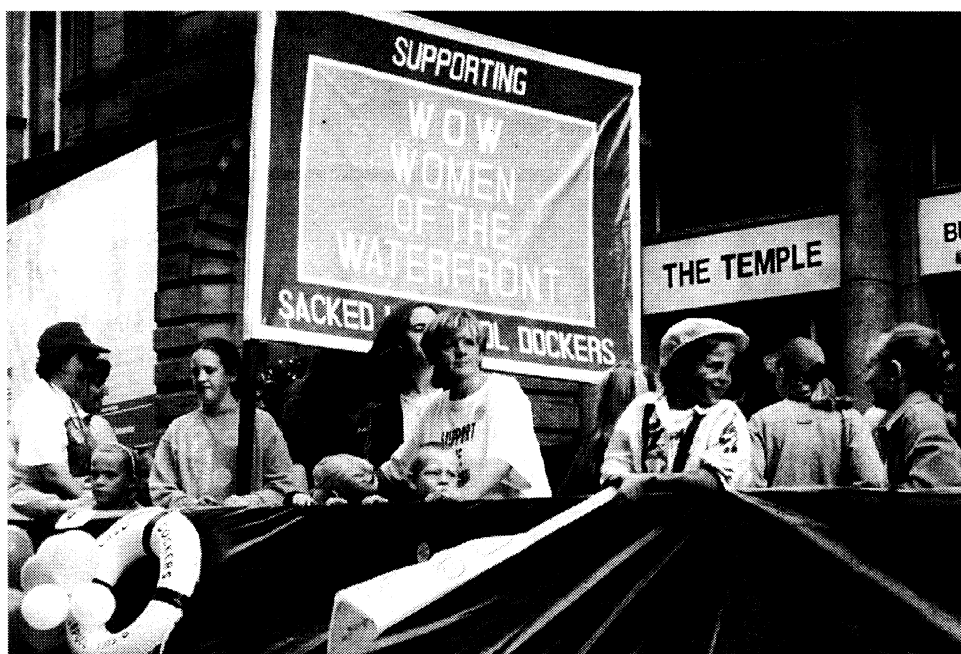
Locked-out unionists commented that while they don't like being locked-out, they don't see any alternative to fighting short of accepting the company's concessions.

"I know the issues we confront here are the same ones workers face everywhere," remarked Pryzbyto.

## Police attack mass picket of Liverpool dockers

LIVERPOOL, England — Cops attacked a mass picket of sacked dockers at Liverpool's Seaforth container terminal September 28. Following the peaceful ending of an occupation of the dock company's headquarters and three port gantries, police squads seized at least 41 dockers and their supporters. The arrests totaled more than all of the others the cops made during this year-long struggle.

The mass picket followed a march of 6,000 people in Liverpool's city center to support 500 dockers who were fired after refusing to cross a picket line set up by contract workers at the docks.



Militant/Tim Rigby

Women of the Waterfront group join September 28 march of 6,000 in Liverpool, England to support 500 dockers who were fired from the Seaforth container terminal.

Workers participated from throughout the United Kingdom. There were delegations from Ireland, including the Irish Seaman's Union, and Derry Trades Council. Six coaches of Turkish and Kurdish immigrant workers, members of the Transport and General Workers Union (the TGWU is the same union that represent the dockers), and their families came from London. They had linked up with the dockers through struggles waged in their own workplaces. The TGWU which has not recognized the dispute, claims it is in breach of restrictive UK laws.

The dockers, UNISON (a public sector workers union) and others, with assistance from some Labour Party MP's, are demanding an independent inquiry into the conduct of the police Operational Support Division. A video shot on the day shows the unprovoked and violent nature of the police attacks.

In Denmark, Copenhagen dockers struck for 24 hours, and in Arhus and Hosens dockers stopped work for the day after mass meetings were called to explain the Liverpool dockers fight. In Odense, a three-hour strike was organized. In the Swedish ports of Gothenburg and Stockholm, a 24-hour ban on the

movement of ACL containers was imposed. ACL is the Liverpool Port Authority's main customer. In an action to protest the privatization of Australia's state-owned shipping line, dockers in that country also pledged solidarity with the Liverpool dockers. Dockers in Salerno, Italy imposed an overtime ban on ships to or from Liverpool. Spanish dockers planned to stopped work for one hour on October 28 in solidarity.

Liverpool dockers voted at mass meetings to turn down a series of company offers to end the dispute. These have promised up to £25,000 (\$US37,500) to most sacked employees of the Mersey Docks and Harbor Company, and ancillary jobs for the remainder. Meanwhile, dockers working for Torside, whose picket lines the majority of dockers were sacked for honoring, have been offered nothing.

Angel Lariscy, member of OCAW Local 7-807 in Mapleton, Illinois. and Sandra Nelson, member of OCAW Local 7-507 in Summit, Illinois; Tim Rigby and Ian Grant, members of the TGWU in United Kingdom contributed to this column.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

LEMONT, Illinois — Two hundred trade unionists gathered at the gates of the Uno-Ven refinery here on September 28 to protest the company's lock-out of 450 members of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) Local 7-517. More than a dozen locals from nine different unions participated, including 15 members of the United Auto Workers in Peoria who work for Caterpillar Inc., and members of the United Paperworkers International Inc. at Trailmobile who recently returned to work after being locked out.

The rally was the second such event since the OCAW members were locked-out of the plant on March 24.

Uno-Ven is a joint venture between Los Angeles-based Unocal Corporation's Union Oil Co. and the Venezuelan state-owned oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela SA.

Union officials reported that at the time of contract negotiations earlier this year, Uno-Ven balked at following the national contract pattern. The company instead stated it had to cut costs to remain competitive and needed concessions from the union on pay and work practices.

Uno-Ven's insistence on a new multitiered wage system that would pay new hires \$4 to \$5 an hour less provoked the collapse of the most recent negotiations between the union and company.

When asked what was the most important issue facing the union, Pam Pryzbyto, a Local 7-517 member with 10 years at Uno-Ven, commented, "Well of course we're looking for a reasonable dollar, but safety is the major aspect for us."

In 1984, 17 workers were killed in an explosion at the plant. Two more were killed in the rebuilding and in December 1995, another worker was killed on the job.

"Safety is a big problem," noted Jim Ashton, an operator in the Catlytic Reforming Unit and an 11-year employee of the company. "The work orders for equipment repair build up; there aren't enough maintenance people to handle them. Now the company wants us to do our jobs, as well as the jobs of the 'safeties' who issue hot work permits and are trained in all aspects of plant safety."

"Pay is a big issue for us too," said Ashton, "because they want to take away our seniority rights, making it impossible to move from one job to another without losing money. This is especially hard for workers who have held physically demanding jobs for many years and could work safer in another department as they get older."

One OCAW Local 7-517 mem-

## LETTERS

### Is rap revolutionary?

I have been a reader of *The Militant* for fifteen years and believe that your excellent paper has only one important flaw — its analysis (or lack of it) on ideological questions in regard to cultural production and transmission. There is a tendency to oversimplify the complexities of criticism to the point of economic determinism.

The most recent example of this oversimplification turned up in Brian Taylor's article on Tupac Shakur. He explains well enough the ridiculousness of both the right-wing and bourgeois views on Shakur's lyrics, but then Taylor completely dismisses the importance of rap music in the last two paragraphs.

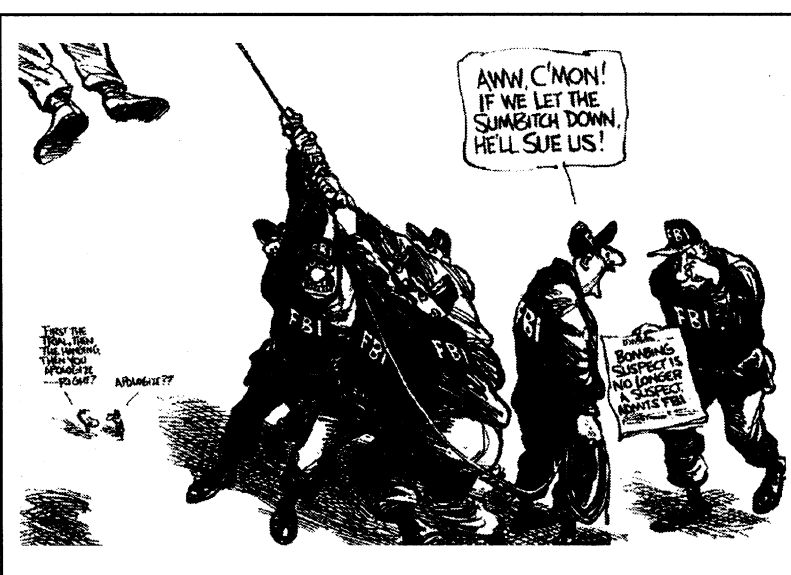
It is true that Tupac didn't come as far in his political evolution as Malcolm did, but that has everything to do with something Taylor never mentions, however — capitalism always and necessarily appropriates forms of subversive cultural expression to increase its profits. On the ideological plane, the capitalists get a fringe benefit — the buying out of potentially revolutionary young fighters before they make the quantum political leap that Malcolm, for example, made.

I am an English teacher at a high school with a student body primarily comprised of Mexican-American, African-American, Haitian, and working-class white students in a migrant community. The students listen to Tupac's music and know that he shared their experience on the street and in the institutions of

U.S. society. While I myself do not think that rappers like Shakur have a message which will do much to train and inspire potential revolutionaries among their listeners, that means little to the youth who listen to them. We study the speeches of Malcolm X in my classroom, not the lyrics of Tupac Shakur, but that doesn't mean I have the luxurious arrogance to dismiss what I perceive as an obstacle to my students' adoption of revolutionary ideas like Malcolm's — that is, the lumpen proletarian desperation and lack of class consciousness in most rap lyrics. Dismissing rappers like Tupac does nothing to explain to youth why his politics were malformed.

The best examples, I think, of how rap lyrics can be read are in regard to the debate within the hip-hop world on issues from purposeful misspelling to women's rights, gay rights, violent crime of rapper "thugs" against other oppressed nationalities, the futility of killing every cop in East LA. ("Fuck the Police" — NWA), and calling oneself a "nigga."

Taylor ignores the fissures in bourgeois culture when he implies that music can only be a tool of expression that reflects bourgeois culture today. I suppose Taylor would write the same thing about all rock-and-roll, all punk music of the '70's, perhaps Woody Guthrie songs, and even strike songs and other forms of working-class music. We must engage and analyze the art produced in bourgeois society, not con-



niently ignore it, assuming it is some passive captive of a monolithic bourgeois culture. I have wanted to live in a socialist world since high school myself, but that day will not be tomorrow.

Musicians today often attempt to address the concerns of disenfranchised youth, flawed as those attempts seem to Marxist-Leninists like ourselves. I believe, however, that the subversiveness of rock-and-roll and rap can serve sometimes as an impetus to revolutionary politics in youth — I graduated from Black Sabbath's "War Pigs" to *The Communist Manifesto!*  
Ian Harvey  
Naples, Florida

### Fight police frame-ups

On Friday the 11th of October

Rolando Cruz, who was released from prison while on death row about one year ago, spoke at a press conference here to give his support to another current framed-up fighter on death row, Aaron Patterson. Rolando Cruz was framed up on charges that he raped and murdered a ten-year-old girl in 1983. Despite the likely killer's confession and no evidence, physically or otherwise, Cruz spent close to 12 years on death row. At the press conference while speaking on Patterson's case, Cruz maintained "I've studied his transcripts, I believe 100 percent that he's innocent."

Aaron Patterson was sentenced to death in 1986 for the supposed killing of a couple during a home invasion and burglary. After being beaten by the police during an in-

terrogation that lasted 25 hours, the police presented Patterson with a confession that he did not sign. This was the evidence presented to convict him. He has been on death row for about ten years currently and has the Aaron Patterson Defense Committee fighting for a new trial and to raise consciousness about police brutality, among other demands. A member of the committee and Aaron's mother, JoAnn Patterson, was a strong supporter of Mark Curtis's fight for freedom. She also attended the press conference with Rolando Cruz. For more information on the Aaron Patterson Defense Committee call: (312) 663-5392.

Tami Peterson  
Chicago, Illinois

### Addicted to the truth

Please, please! continue my subscription to the *Militant*. If I had more, I swear I'd send it! Do not throw me to the CNN's, CBS's, NBC's of this world. I'm addicted to the truth that I have discovered in your paper. A revolutionary without the proper political training is as deadly as a stray bullet.

A prisoner  
Graterford, Pennsylvania

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

## Greek gov't calls for belt tightening

BY BOBBIS MISAILIDES.

ATHENS, Greece — "After the vote: Tighten your belts for guns and Maastricht," read a headline in the October 15 *Athens News*. The English-language daily published here pointed out that the social democratic government of Prime Minister Constantinos Simitis is about to launch a new wave of austerity measures and a huge armaments program.

Simitis swept the early elections he called for September 22 — a year ahead of schedule. Simitis replaced Andreas Papandreu after the former prime minister died in June. His party, the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), won 162 seats in the 300-member parliament with 41.5 percent of the vote. The conservative New Democracy (ND), the main bourgeois opposition party, came in second with 38 percent.

Simitis won a confidence vote in parliament October 12, as he outlined the first cuts in social programs his government intends to introduce over the next month, and its militarization campaign in preparation for further confrontations with Turkey. According to *Athens News*, the belt tightening include a halt in public sector hiring and the abolition of tax breaks for millions of households. The government is also planning to curtail social security and sell off shares of state-owned monopolies in telecommunications, oil refining, and other industries to private investors, laying off thousands of workers.

The PASOK regime claims the austerity measures are necessary to bring the budget deficit down from 7.6 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to the 3 percent required for joining the so-called European Monetary Union by the year 2000. To join in the European Union (EU) "common" currency, the government is also required to slash inflation, now at an annual rate of 8.5 percent — three times higher than the EU average.

### Bipartisan shift to right

The elections registered a further shift to the right of the bipartisan framework of bourgeois politics. During the election campaign, PASOK leader Georgios Pashalides accused Miltiades Evert, New Democracy's candidate for prime minister, of "being capable of proclaiming ND a socialist party" in order to win the elections. Evert, in turn, denounced Simitis for "following a terribly conservative monetarist view that touches the limits of neoliberalism."

Since the fall of the military regime in 1974, New Democracy and PASOK have alternated in government, leading the assault on the standard of living of working people. The average real wage in 1995 was 3 percent lower than the 1982 level. Today, 23 percent to 35 percent of working people live below the official poverty level in four of the country's seven regions on the mainland. This is especially true in northern provinces such as Thrace, where a high percentage of the working class is composed of oppressed nationalities — Turks, Macedonians, and others. Half a million retired workers, in a population of 10 million, get a state pension of Dr. 80,000 (US\$330) per month, which is below the poverty level. Over the last decade, 300,000 working farmers have been forced off their land, moving to the cities for other jobs.

The decline of real wages and social benefits is continuing in the middle of a two-year-long economic recovery. Industrial production has risen 1.6 percent so far this year, for example. Joblessness, however, has continued to climb — reaching 10.2 percent in September — as the employers "downsize" to cut costs.

At the same time, the PASOK administration has unleashed attacks on democratic rights. In the last two years, the police have assaulted striking shipyard workers, other unionists resisting layoffs, and retirees demanding higher pensions.

During the election campaign, Evert proposed that regions of Greece hardest hit with unemployment "should not have any for-



Militant/Georges Mehrabian

**Over 3,000 farmers protested at the Ministry of Agriculture in Athens, March 19. Cops have arrested scores of farmers in protests demanding higher pay for their products and hundreds of youth during student protests last fall.**

eigners." He blamed immigrants for an "increase in crime" and said, "We face the problem of providing jobs for young people, while at the same time there are 400,000 illegals in the country, about the same as the Greek unemployment level." Simitis, while taking some distance from these chauvinist statements, ordered the police to carry out "Operation Broom" prior to the September elections — arresting and expelling 5,000 undocumented workers, most from Albania.

Evert and other candidates of New Democracy campaigned for proposals they said would result in economic growth much higher than the current 2.2 percent annual rate. "Only through massive privatizations, with the abolition of state monopolies, can Greece repeat its economic miracle of 1953-73 and begin again to grow at a pace of 5 percent to 6 percent annually," said Stamatis Manos, a central leader of New Democracy.

Faced with stiffening competition in exports of food and other commodities by capitalists in Germany, France, Italy, and Spain, Greek capitalists are on a drive to expand investment and trade in the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Middle East. In its attempts at economic expansion, Athens comes up not only against its imperialist rivals, but also the capitalist rulers of Turkey.

Tensions have sharpened between Athens and Ankara over a territorial dispute involving mineral deposits in the Aegean

Sea and over Cyprus. Earlier this year Greek and Turkish naval ships came within minutes of opening fire on each other.

The rulers of Greece are whipping up nationalist and anti-Turkish sentiment in their attempts to rally working people around their militarization and austerity program. At a September 12 news conference, Simitis clearly outlined his central foreign policy priority. "On the road towards the year 2000, we face one threat: Turkish aggression in the Aegean, Thrace, and Cyprus," he said. Evert accused PASOK of "retreating on our national interests," and proposed a more aggressive policy to expand the territorial limits around the Greek islands in the Aegean sea from 6 to 12 miles — a measure that could provoke military retaliation from Ankara.

Most of the smaller opposition groups pushed their own nationalist tirades against Turkey during the election campaign. Four of these parties joined PASOK and ND in having their representatives be the godfathers of the daughter of Greek-Cypriot Tassos Isaak, who was beaten to death in Cyprus in August by supporters of the Gray Wolves, a Turkish fascist outfit. Isaak took part in a protest organized by Greek right-wing groups on the line dividing Cyprus between Greek- and Turkish-speaking areas. These opposition parties include the Communist Party of Greece (KKE), which came

third with 5.6 percent of the vote, and the Left Coalition, a regroupment of social democrats and Stalinists who split from KKE, which got 5.1 percent.

"Trillions of drachmas [billions of dollars] will be invested in the next five years to safeguard our national sovereignty," Defense Minister Akis Tsochadzopoulos told the October 15 *Athens News*. Defense ministry officials said the new armaments program could cost as much as \$10 billion with F-16 fighters, missiles, and attack helicopters. Athens already spends 4.6 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product on the military budget, more than most other NATO members.

### Attacks by fascist groups

The rulers' war drive and nationalist campaign is putting wind in the sails of fascist forces. In September 1995 the mayor of the city of Florina led a group of 30-40 fascists, with the collaboration of the police, to burn the offices of the Rainbow, an organization of Macedonians based in that city near the border with the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

In recent months, fascist organizations such as the Chrisi Avgi (Golden Dawn) and Stóhos (Aim) have stepped up attacks on immigrants, anti-racist fighters, and on the oppressed Turkish-speaking workers living in the slums of Athens. The Rainbow ran in the elections in a block with the Reconstruction of the Communist Movement of Greece (OAKKE) on a platform that included demands for the "immediate unconditional recognition of the Republic of Macedonia" and against "nationalist hysteria and national oppression." Its election center in Athens was burned by fascist thugs in September of this year.

Resistance to the attacks on immigrants is also on the rise. In mid-July, over 4,000 participated at an anti-racist festival organized by some 30 immigrant rights and other organizations. They demanded an end to the deportations of immigrant workers and full legalization with equal rights. This was the biggest such event ever in Athens.

Reflecting the worries in ruling circles over the social tremors the austerity measures of the Simitis regime may cause, former Minister of Transportation Georgios Daskalakis said, "PASOK will be walking into a mine-field.... People have reached the limits of their endurance."

*Bobbis Misailides is a member of the Union of Foreign Airline Employees in Athens.*

## 'Return Chinese islands to China' say protesters

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

VANCOUVER — Chanting "Defend Diaoyutai from Japanese Militarism" in both Chinese and English, 4,000 people — many of Chinese descent, marched through the streets here September 22. The protesters were angry over a July decision by the Japanese government to assert a zone of 200 nautical miles around its territory that includes Diaoyutai. Beijing claims sovereignty over the islands.

Following this decision, the Japan Youth Federation, a right-wing group, built a lighthouse on one island and adorned it with a Japanese flag. On October 5 Japanese foreign minister Yukihiko Ikeda emphasized that Japan was not giving up ownership.

The Chinese ambassador to Tokyo, Xu Duxin, condemned this action at a meeting of the Japanese foreign ministry in early September. "Chinese people are outraged and want to issue a strong protest," he declared.

According to the *New York Times*, "the main reason the islands have suddenly become the focus of such attention is that surveys have suggested there may be huge petroleum reserves in nearby waters."

The action's organizers — Vancouver Alliance Against Japanese Invasion of Diaoyutai Islands — have been demonstrat-

ing for Chinese sovereignty over the islands, and the ethnic pride and dignity of all Chinese people.

On September 18 more than 8,000 people marched through the streets of Hong Kong to protest the building of the lighthouse. In the first week of October, the governing Liberal Democratic Party of Japan released an election manifesto asserting Tokyo's claim to the Diaoyutai.

While the Chinese government has discouraged protest demonstrations in China, protests involving thousands of people have also taken place in Taiwan, which has been ruled by a U.S.-backed government opposed to the Chinese revolution. In Macao — a Portuguese colony scheduled to be returned to China in 1999 — some 20,000 students rallied for "special lessons on 'Japanese militarism and expansion,'" according to *The Toronto Globe and Mail*.

The actions by Tokyo to establish its claim to the uninhabited islands coincided with the 65th anniversary of the Japanese military invasion of Manchuria in Northeastern China. During Tokyo's colonial war against the Chinese people, more than 30 million people died. Within just six weeks during the Nanking massacre, 300,000 people were brutally slaughtered.

"The Japanese military had three rules,"

explained Jack Ho, a member of the Union of Needletrades Industrial and Textile Employees Union at Aero Garment, "Kill everyone, burn everything, and take everything."

The Japanese rulers have stepped-up their military drive. It's reflected, demonstrators say, by examples like the Japanese Sea Patrol chasing away Chinese fishing boats, as well as the conflict over the Diaoyutai Islands. They point to the fact that Japanese prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto recently paid tribute to the Yasukuni Shrine, a memorial to Japanese war criminals — despite protests from other Asian governments. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* reported how "right-wing groups dressed in stormtrooper outfits, regularly stroll unchecked through Japan's cities in armored trucks blaring slogans and nationalistic songs."

Before the Sino-Japanese War in 1895 China's sovereignty over the Diaoyutai Islands had been under the jurisdiction of the Taiwan province. After China lost the war, the Qing dynasty government ceded Taiwan and the Diaoyutai to Japan in an unequal treaty. After Japan's defeat in World War II, Taiwan was returned to China. But in 1972, the U.S. government handed over the Diaoyutai to Japan. China has never accepted this action by Washington.